US hostages' relatives want negotiation

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Third anthrax case reported in Florida

BOCA RATON, Florida—A third anthrax exposure case in a newspaper company in Florida has prompted authorities to declare the probe into the infection a criminal investigation.

But Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Hector Pesquera was quick to stress that there was no indication the anthrax was produced or caused by a terrorist group or individuals connected to the Sept. 11 attacks on New

THIRD/ A18

Canadian murdered; Filipina wife hurt

KUWAIT CITY—The first murder of a westerner in the volatile Gulf Arab states since the launch of air strikes on Afghanistan may be an act of terrorism against the US-led war.

The killer of a Canadian civilian shot dead Wednesday night as he shopped with his Filipino wife ran off shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest), a senior security source told AFP Thursday.

CANADIAN/ A20

US to bring war materiel

Filipino soldiers to be trained to pursue the Abu Sayyaf

ESCAPING from his Abu Sayyaf abductors, Faizal Binase, 19, is reunited with his parents Zorayda and Delfin. He was kidnapped four months ago in Lantawan, Basilan. VAL HANDUMON

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

US MILITARY experts will train Filipino soldiers in going after the Abu Sayyaf and bring in helicopters and other "special equipment," but will not direct the operations, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said yesterday.

Asked whether Filipino troops would have to take orders from the US experts, Rigoberto Tiglao said: "No. As I said, this is just a coordinating team. Part of them will be military officers and part will be civilian officers."

Tiglao made the clarification in the wake of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez's disclosure Wednesday that a "sizeable delegation" of ranking officers of the US military was due to arrive in Manila.

Golez said the US officers would take part in a discussion of "possibilities where we can help each other with respect to planning, training and adjusting our program addressed to the local and international terrorist problem."

Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, also said US troops would not take part in the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

"The involvement of US military units doesn't appear to be on the horizon because there are certain impediments," Lecaros said, referring to the constitutional prohibition against the presence of foreign troops here.

Lecaros, however, did not rule out other forms of US assistance, including sharing of intelligence.

"It's not so much throwing military hardware but knowing when and where to throw it. Right now we're not sure if it's already taking place," he said.

Palace officials gave varying

US/ A20

HIGH-POWERED firearms recovered from the Abu Sayyaf are inspected by AFP Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva and Southcom commander Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu at the 103rd Brigade headquarters in Tabiawan, Isabela, Basilan. VAL HANDUMON

Colin Powell: No plans yet to hit other countries

WASHINGTON—The United States has no immediate plans to attack targets besides Afghanistan and the al-Qaida organization of Osama bin Laden, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday.

Asked to comment on reports that the United States was going to attack other targets, Powell said: "There are no plans that are about to go down the pipe with respect to the kinds of actions that you are suggesting in your question. We take these things one at a time."

The New York Times said on Wednesday that "terrorists" based in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia and linked with al-Qaida were likely targets of future covert and overt US operations.

The newspaper quoted unidentified US officials as saying that the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao had sent insurgents to train at al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan, and that it had also exchanged money, equipment and people with al-Qaida in recent years.

Powell added: "The first phase is directed against al-Qaida. We will see what we are able to flush out as a result of intelligence activity, law enforcement and financial activities."

COLIN/ A20

MOVE OVER, CNN

Arab TV station raking it in

DUBAI—Al Jazeera satellite television station is scooping the biggest names in television by beaming the only live shots of the US-led strikes on Afghanistan and chilling footage of Osama bin Laden and his closest associates threatening more doom.

For its feat, Jazeera is making big profits. It is charging up to $20,000 for a minute of Bin Laden, as networks around the world scramble to buy videotaped statements from the world's most wanted man.

"It gives you both the truth and the lies. The hottest news is on Jazeera," said Noora Abdullah, a customer service employee at Dubai Media City in the United Arab Emirates.

"I used to watch CNN and Jazeera but now I watch mostly Jazeera," she added.

Based in the maverick Gulf Arab state of Qatar, the network has drawn fire from Arab governments, and more recently from the United States, which accuses Jazeera of in-

ARAB/ A19

US gov't cautions TV networks

WASHINGTON—Warning that Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network may be sending coded messages to their followers to launch new attacks against Americans, the Bush administration asked major television networks on Wednesday to show restraint in broadcasting their videotaped statements.

The extraordinary request was made by President George W. Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, in a conference call with ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX and NBC news executives, who pledged afterward to screen incoming feeds before airing them—rather than broadcasting them live.

"Dr. Rice has asked the networks to exercise judgment about how these prerecorded, pretaped messages will air," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told a White House briefing. "At best,

US GOV'T/ A19

DAY 4 OF 'OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM'

US eyes new weapons, new alliances, new fronts

WASHINGTON—After four days of bombing over Afghanistan, US military planners are looking to new weapons, new alliances and new fighting fronts as they calculate the next moves in their campaign against international terror.

Heavy air strikes on Thursday hit Taliban's home base in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, sending civilians fleeing for the Pakistani border.

The Taliban said 18 people were killed and more than two dozen hurt—a claim that could not be independently verified.

The Taliban also said that 10 people were killed in strikes early Thursday on the eastern city of Jalalbad.

US jets pounded Kabul Wednesday night and early Thursday, and explosions thundered around a Taliban military academy, artillery units and suspected terrorist training camps. Taliban anti-aircraft gunners returned fire.

With most of Afghanistan's air defenses destroyed, US air strikes are focusing more on leaders of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the Taliban regime protecting them.

The US military is working to intimidate, if not injure or kill, Taliban and terrorist leaders with the latest bombing runs.

The United States has also added 5,000-pound (2,250-kilogram) "bunker-buster" bombs that can pierce reinforced strongholds. More anti-personnel bombs are being used to target Taliban troops and equipment.

US EYES/ A20

Rodrigo: 2 Palace aides got P40M

GMA chum 'clears' Mike

WITNESS Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo sticks to her claim at the Senate blue ribbon committee on Thursday that a multimillion-peso bribe changed hands for a telecom franchise deal but that it may not have involved Mr. Mike Arroyo (at right). ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

A FORMER Malacañang correspondence secretary yesterday testified before a Senate blue ribbon committee hearing that three people, including two Palace officials, allegedly received P40 million in bribes to persuade President Macapagal-Arroyo to rescind her veto of a congressional franchise to two telecommunications companies.

Veronica Rodrigo, an elementary and high school classmate of the President, said that she had no direct knowledge or evidence of the bribery allegation against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and that she had heard it only from others.

"I never talked to my wife, Gloria, to recall her veto," Arroyo said at the committee hearing.

Rodrigo, daughter of the late Sen. Fancisco "Soc" Rodrigo, had accused the President's husband last September of receiving bribes from the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc.

She resigned as Ms Macapagal's correspondence secretary, after Arroyo had alluded to her as having received money from the two companies.

Rodrigo identified those who reportedly took the money

RODRIGO/ A4

Malacañang defends mediamen it employed

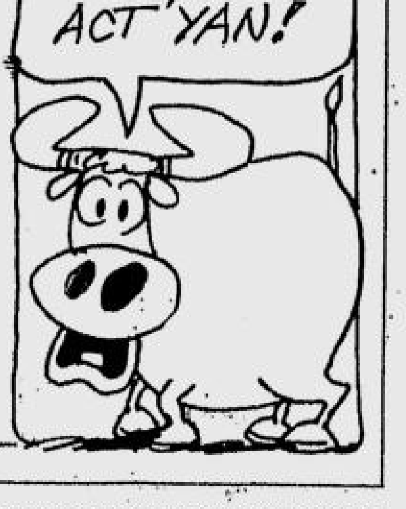
BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

A FORMER member of the media himself, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday defended the practice of appointing mediamen to government positions. So did Presidential Management Staff (PMS) chief, Ma. Victoria Garchitorena.

Both officials contended that the presence of mediamen in government-controlled corporations allowed the administration to present its views.

The defense was in response to the allegations by former sweepstakes consultant Robert Rivero that Mr. Mike Arroyo headed a group that "milked"

MALACAÑANG/ A19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Second FRONT PAGE

ALTERNATIVE TO RESCUE

Hostage's kin want negotiation

WICHITA, Kansas—The parents of a Kansas missionary held hostage in the Philippines says they would like to see negotiation rather than a possible rescue attempt.

In May, Islamic militants in the Philippines seized three Americans and 17 Filipinos. Soldiers recovered remains believed to be those of one American, Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California. Two American missionaries, Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, and 16 Filipinos remain captive.

"As long as they are safe, we are patient to wait for negotiation," said Paul Burnham, Martin's father.

On Wednesday, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said no US ground troops will be allowed to take part in any counter-terrorist operation in the Philippines. His comments came in response to reports that the country may be one area where the United States wants to expand its fight against terrorism.

Instead of ground troops, the United States was to provide intelligence, training and equipment to help fight Islamic militants in the Philippines, Golez said.

"We are trusting them to do what is right," Paul Burnham said Wednesday. "We feel the US government is actively involved doing all they can to work with the Philippine government to secure a safe release, rather than putting anyone on a timetable."

The developments came on the same day that a photograph of the Burnhams with what appears to be one of their captors surfaced on a television station in Mindanao, and was later put on the Internet.

Paul Burnham said the family saw the photo on the Internet and that it appears to be an older picture, not one taken recently. But he said all indications are that the couple is doing well.

"We are just trusting the Lord to work it out in his timing," he said.

Scott Ross, spokesperson for New Tribes Mission, said the photograph that has just surfaced appears to have been taken at the same time as one released of the couple in mid-July.

New Tribes has been able to interview hostages released periodically, and all have confirmed that when they left the group the Burnhams were still alive and doing well. The most recent word came in the last seven to 10 days, he said.

"As we've had the opportunity to interview different hostages, we've heard tremendous stories about what encouragement the Burnhams have been (to them)," Ross said.

AP

THE BURNHAMS

21 'Abu Sayyaf' casualties civilians, rights groups say

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

THE MILITARY tried to pass off 21 civilians it killed in its bombardment of Basilan last week as members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group, a human rights organization and Basilan provincial officials have charged.

A fact-finding mission comprised of the rights group Karapatan and Basilan provincial board members said it learned there had been "no exchange of gunfire" between the military and the bandit group during the four-day siege of Basilan by government forces.

The 21 alleged Abu Sayyaf members killed by the military were all innocent civilians, according to the fact-finding mission.

"The military strike did not only mean loss of lives and property, it also meant P8 million in government funds for nothing," said Basilan board member Abdulmuhmin Mujahid in an interview yesterday.

"Basilan is a virtual war zone, where 11 military battalions are present," Mujahid said. "It's a no man's land."

The fact-finding mission covered military operations against the Abu Sayyaf beginning July, when the crackdown on the extremist group started, to October, when the recent air strike was mounted by the government forces.

Marie Hilao Enriquez, Karapatan secretary general, said their findings also showed the military engaged in looting and the massacre of civilians.

"In its desperation to produce results, the military ruthlessly killed innocent civilians and presented them as Abu Sayyaf members," Enriquez said.

Pilot Hamajin, 25, who is in the protective custody of Karapatan, said the military indiscriminately fired at his family as they tried to flee their home last week.

"I saw my father, mother and 17-year-old brother fall one after the other. I took several bullets, too, but luckily I survived the carnage," Hamajin said in his dialect which was translated by Hadji Billamin Hassan, a member of Karapatan.

Hamajin said the soldiers took the bodies of his father and brother and presented them to their superiors as Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"The body of my mother was of no use to the soldiers because their superiors would not believe she was a member of the Abu Sayyaf being a woman," said Hamajin, who will be presented by Karapatan as a witness in a suit it plans to file against the military.

Nasser Salain, another Basilan provincial board member, said it would have been impossible for the military to have found the Abu Sayyaf because it was not even bombing the forested areas where the bandits are believed to be hiding.

"The military bombed areas populated by civilians. How could they not see that civilians would be hurt when they focused their attack on them?" Salain said.

Bombs, he said, even fell on the campus of the Basilan State College.

Enriquez said the province was heavily saturated by the military.

"How could the Abu Sayyaf possibly get through the military cordon to get to the populated areas when there are checkpoints every few meters?" Enriquez asked.

"The 30-kilometer trek from Maluso to Isabela has 16 checkpoints," she said, after personally going to Basilan to conduct the fact-finding mission.

Each checkpoint, Nasser added, is manned by 30 soldiers.

"We had to make this exposé because we did not want the public to be misled. We live in Basilan, we know what is happening there," Nasser said.

Mujahid, for his part, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to make good her promise to listen to the woes of Basilan residents.

"We have been complaining of the heavy military presence, despite which not one member of the Abu Sayyaf has been arrested," Mujahid said. "Instead, many civilians have been killed and are suffering from military atrocities."

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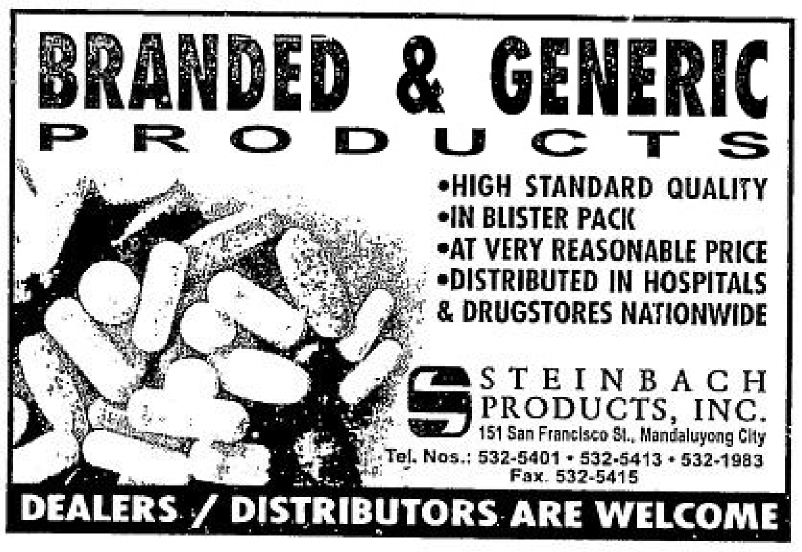
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Pro-Erap leader charged with rebellion

By Michael Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has filed rebellion charges against the leader of an anti-poverty organization closely identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, in connection with the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

Ronald Lumbao, president of the People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP), was charged before the Manila Regional Trial Court yesterday morning.

State prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco did not recommend any bail for Lumbao, a staunch Estrada supporter believed to be one of the organizers of the so-called Edsa 3 and the attack on Malacañang by thousands of the ousted president's poor followers.

Velasco told reporters the filing of the complaint against Lumbao did not mean the government would not initiate similar cases against Estrada allies who supported Edsa 3 and whipped the crowd into a frenzy.

He identified the Estrada associates as former senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile, incumbent senators Vicente Sotto, Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson and Luisa Ejercito, JV Ejercito, Butz Aquino, Ricardo Puno and Jamby Madrigal, among others.

The charges against them are still being investigated by the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Velasco said.

Lumbao is accused of violating Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code when he "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously... rose up publicly and took up arms against the Philippine government and its laws by marching toward Malacañang and attacking it, causing injuries, violence and destruction in the process."

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For more information, please contact the following: LTC Raymundo T. Francisco @ 6361379/81, LTC Cornelio Pelaez @ 0917-9686008 & LTC Danny Crisologo @ 0917-9779574.

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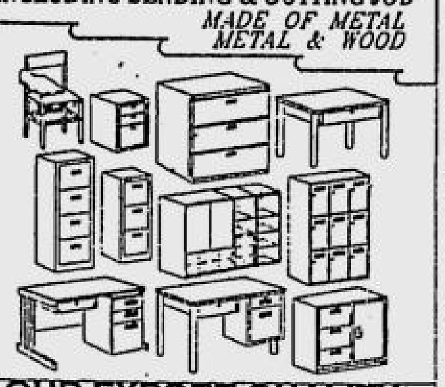

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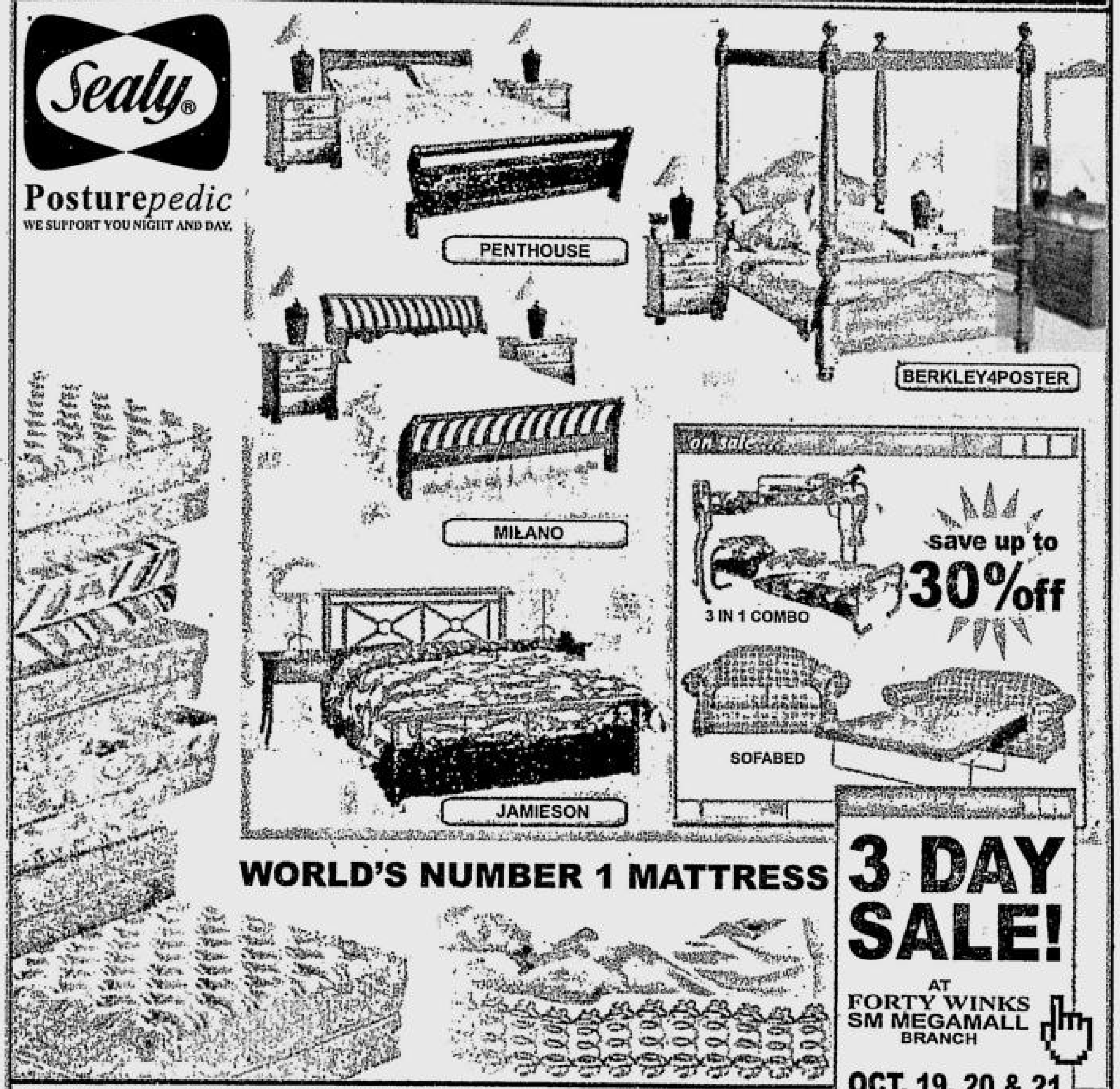

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THREE heads are better than one at the Senate blue ribbon committee: Senators Barbers, Pimentel and Arroyo. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PRESIDENT Macapagal's childhood friend and classmate, Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, at the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Rodrigo: 2 Palace aides got ₱40M

(From page A1)

as Erlinda de Leon, confidential assistant to the President; Ito los Baños, alleged "business partner of Arroyo" and Antonio Gatuslao, presidential legislative liaison to the House of Representatives.

In Bacolod City, Gatuslao denied that he received a bribe.

Purely hearsay

"(Rodrigo's) insinuations are purely hearsay, irresponsible. I vehemently deny them," Gatuslao, a Negrense, said.

He said he was looking into the possibility of filing charges against Rodrigo for maligning him.

Rodrigo said she learned of the alleged payoff to Gatuslao, De Leon and Los Baños from Malou Nuñez, a former consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Rodrigo said it was Nuñez, an acquaintance of hers, who had been inquiring about the status of a request for Ms Macapagal to reconsider her veto of the two telecommunications franchise bills.

Arroyo had accused Rodrigo of having been involved in the scam because it was she who reportedly brought Nuñez to Gabriel Claudio, chief of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, on June 4.

One bill would have granted a franchise to PCCI to operate a clearinghouse through which telecom companies would interconnect for a fee.

Another bill would have granted APC Wireless a franchise to build a wireless telecommunications system nationwide.

Rodrigo said Nuñez had relayed to her the existence of two groups working to have the veto recalled.

Bribe-giver

One group was represented by alleged bribe-giver Pacifico Marcelo of PCCI. Another group was in Malacañang.

"When she (Nuñez) saw the President vetoing the bill, she complained that one group was still giving them false hopes that it could still be reconsidered," Rodrigo said. "A group was still asking for money."

She admitted that her association with Nuñez had gotten her deeply involved in the scandal.

"Nuñez said since the (Malacañang group) couldn't deliver in having the vetoed bill overturned, they would make me a fall guy to appease the bribe-giver," Rodrigo said. She said she learned about this from Nuñez.

Rodrigo said that those who gave the P40 million, not P50 million as reported earlier, had wanted to get back the money.

Because the money could not be recovered, the group in the Palace wanted to make it appear that she pocketed the money, according to Rodrigo.

She said that it was for this reason that she resigned on June 27.

"I did not want to get embroiled in the controversy," she said, adding that she did not tell the President about the matter because she wanted to "leave quietly."

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III noted that "it would have been a natural reaction" for Rodrigo to talk to her superiors, or the President, Rodrigo's childhood friend.

Bad temper

Rodrigo said that she did not raise a ruckus because she was simply an "employee" and that the President had a "bad temper."

The President was later informed about the matter long before it was circulated through text messaging, according to Rodrigo.

Before resigning her post, between June 4 and June 27, Rodrigo said she was able to convince a common friend, Raffy Evangelista, to tell the President about the matter.

"He told her that there were people around the President who were part of the telecom scam," Rodrigo said. "Raffy told her that I was involved and that I'm going to be used as the fall guy."

Rodrigo said the President promised an "internal investigation." Nothing came out of it.

Some senators, who attended the hearing, theorized that Rodrigo either took part of the money or that she delivered it to Palace officials.

Asked about Rodrigo's testimony, Arroyo said he "doubts there was bribery. She said she heard it from Miss Nuñez."

"It's all hearsay. She did not see any transfer of money," he said.

Arroyo, nevertheless, extended his apologies to Rodrigo for the trouble the issue had caused them.

He said that what had happened between him and Rodrigo was a case of "misunderstanding from both sides and of reacting too quickly."

He told reporters to "be careful about text messages. Don't jump to conclusions."

All those named will be invited to the next hearing.

Key witness

Senators agreed that Nuñez could well be the key witness that the Senate needed in getting to the bottom of the alleged bribery.

The problem is whether the Senate could get Nuñez to testify as she had reportedly left the country.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said the committee had already sent a subpoena to Nuñez.

"I will not let this investigation close until we get her testimony on record," said Osmeña of Nuñez whom he described as a "very, very important witness to this particular affair."

Should Nuñez fail to testify, Robert Barbers is proposing that the Senate inquiry be downgraded from a public hearing to a "consultative conference with selected resource persons."

"We have nothing to dig because Rodrigo had testified that Arroyo's alleged involvement in the bribery was something she had heard from somebody," Barbers told reporters.

Barbers, Osmeña and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. found Rodrigo a credible witness.

But Osmeña and Pimentel felt that she was not telling all.

Barbers said Rodrigo "could not tell us more on what had transpired because she was no longer interested in pursuing the truth of her allegations."

Osmeña was wondering why she resigned her position without explaining her reasons to Ms Macapagal.

Osmeña also wondered why no charges had been filed up to now if the President knew about the bribery.

"Why wasn't something done about this, it's already in the newspapers?" he said.

"Why take a Senate investigation to do so? I have doubts of the Palace's capability to police its ranks and this is disturbing," he added.

Pimentel said Rodrigo had a lot more to say. "Probably she was pulling back on some matters, which we don't really know," he said.

That's why more witnesses should be called in, including the missing Nuñez, according to Pimentel.

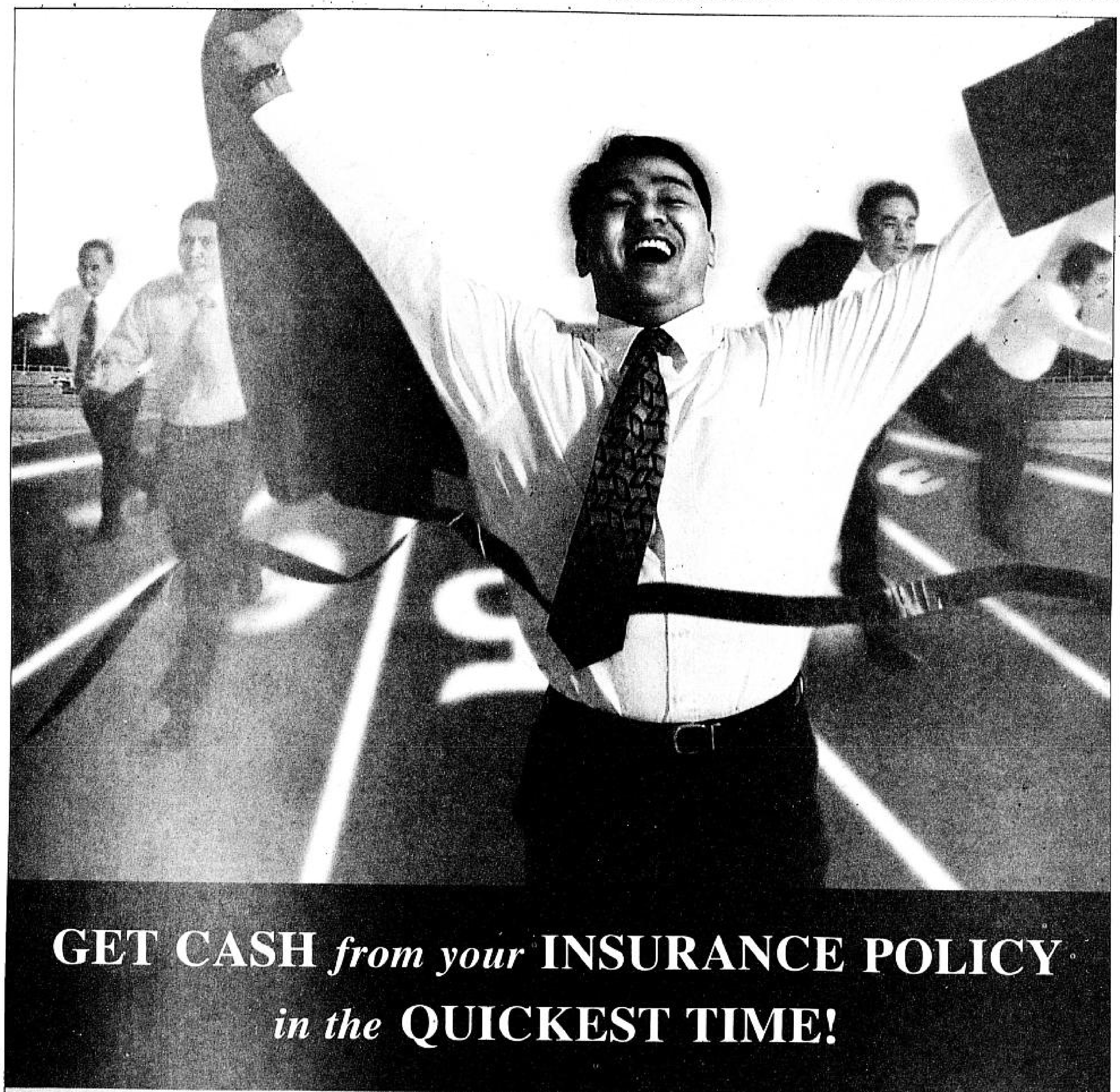
Pimentel suggested that the Senate pass a bill defining the "exact role" of a President's spouse.

This was echoed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who noted that the President's spouse was "performing functions and maintaining an office using public funds."

Biazon proposed two alternative measures:

- One that would make the First Spouse a public official covered by existing laws such as Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.
- Another that prohibits the First Spouse from performing official functions such as the supervision of charitable and infrastructure projects and from issuing of statements on national issues.

Arroyo welcomed the move in Congress to come out with a legislation on the role of a President's spouse. ***With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***



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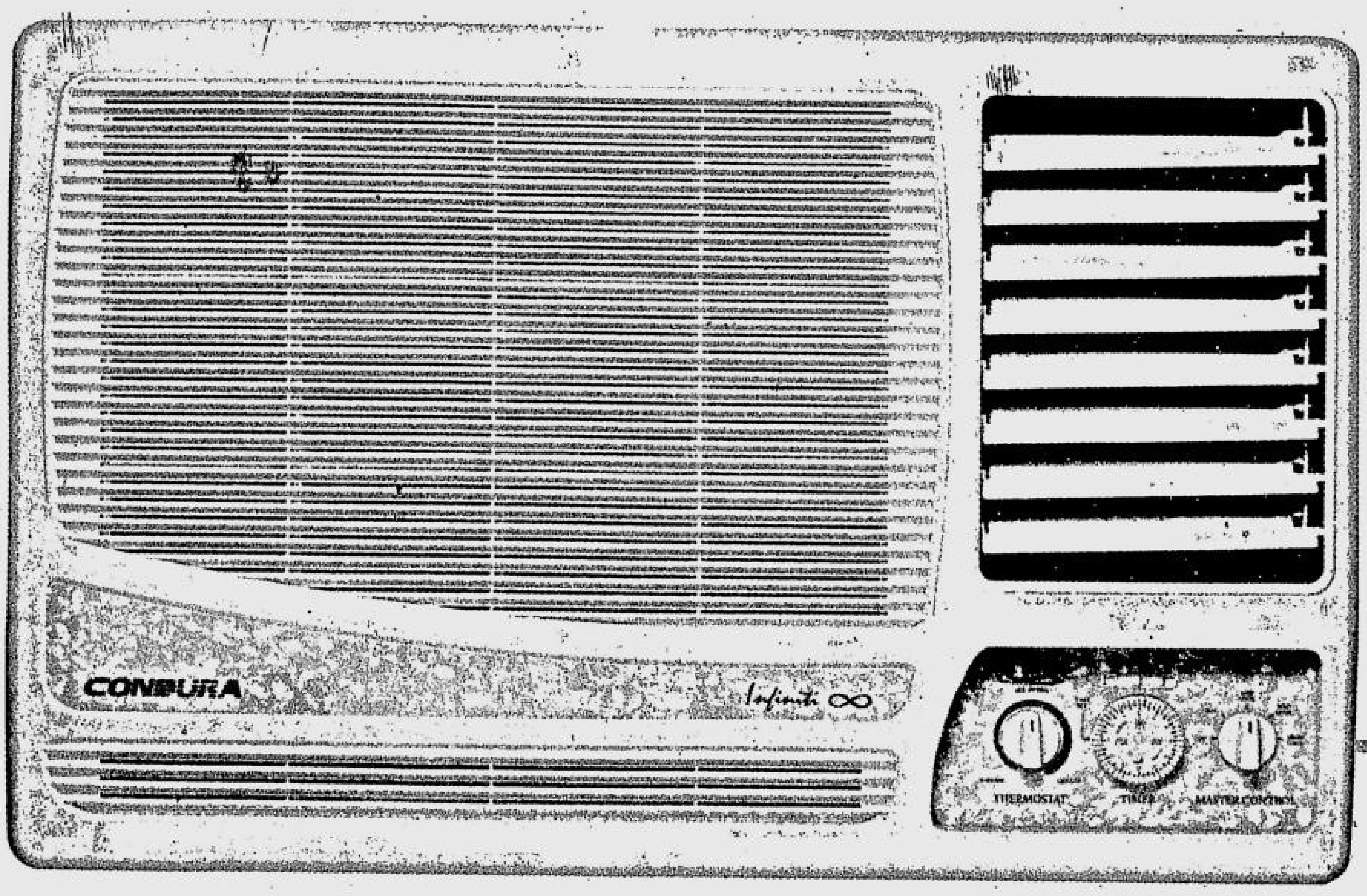

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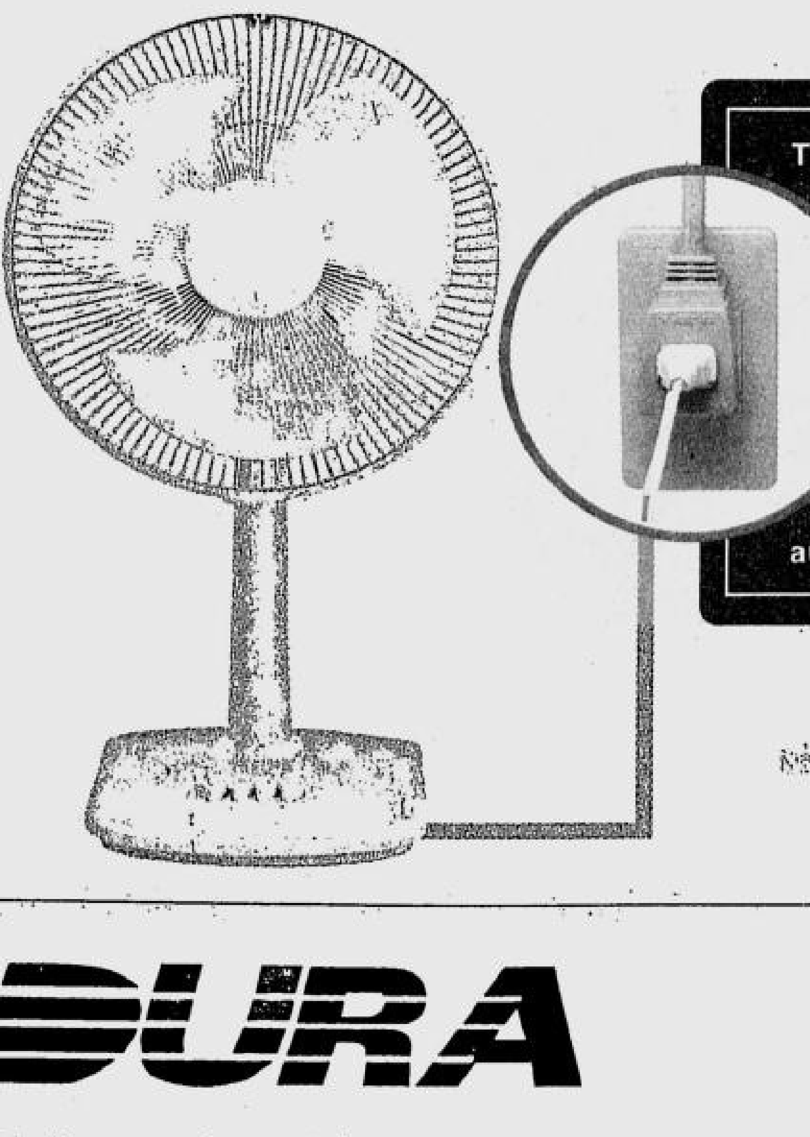

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GSIS tells Napocor: Go to court, not the media

INSTEAD of going to the media, the National Power Corp. should go to court to seek legal remedies on its complaints against the Government Service Insurance System regarding insurance claim.

This was the challenge aired yesterday by Fernando Campana, GSIS vice president for Insurance Group, after Napocor issued a public statement claiming that it has some unpaid insurance claims with GSIS and that GSIS has been allegedly padding its premiums.

"Go to court," Campana told Napocor president Jesus Alcordo in a press statement.

"Napocor should seek legal remedies on its complaints rather than pursuing cases before the bar of public opinion," Campana said.

"Let us not fight this before the press because it embarrasses the President," he said, citing the well-publicized Napocor's insurance claims.

However, the GSIS official expressed doubts on whether Alcordo can substantiate his charges that the GSIS has been remiss in paying the power firm's insurance claims.

Campana pointed out that not a single collection suit has been filed by Napocor against the GSIS.

"This only means that there is no basis to sue," Campana said.

The GSIS official also urged Alcordo to respond to earlier call of GSIS for Napocor to substantiate charges of alleged premium padding over the past five years.

Campana said GSIS president and General Manager Winston Garcia will not tolerate overpricing and is more than interested to investigate, be he needs proof from Napocor because the alleged premium padding occurred before he took over the pension fund.

Alcordo had claimed that GSIS had padded the premiums of Napocor and gave the reinsurance contracts to favored reinsurance brokers.

As a result of its dispute with the GSIS, which is mandated to handle the insurance needs of government agencies, the state power firm had announced that it would conduct its own bidding for the reinsurance contracts. However, the recent bidding failed when no broker made a bid.

As a result, Napocor had raised the possibility of putting up its own offshore brokerage firm to handle its own reinsurance.

Camacho: Terrorists' money in RP traced

WASHINGTON—Philippine Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said on Wednesday there is some evidence of money laundering in his country by groups such as the ones responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

On a visit to Washington, where he met with US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and officials at the State Department, Camacho said he would work with the United States to crack down on financing for groups that sponsor terrorism.

"We are doing some cross checking of names to see whether some specific names are coming up," he told a small group of reporters at a briefing. "We are beginning to identify some of those organizations."

While he insisted his country is not major center for money laundering, he acknowledged that there are some historic links between such groups and the Philippines.

"I'm not sure that I would say it is a major hub but certainly there are implied linkages from the past... such as the case of the brother-in-law of (Osama) bin laden who had some actions in the Philippines in the mid-90s," he said.

The United States has accused Bin Laden of being the mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Manila enacted an anti-money laundering bill on Sept. 29. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, an international agency that combats money laundering, had threatened sanctions against the country if it did not pass the law by Sept. 30.

The agency, which boasts a 30-country membership, had put the Philippines at the top of a blacklist of "non-cooperative" states.

Camacho said his country is keen to work to implement the new law. He also said the Philippines had already been working on the issue before the Sept. 11 attacks, which have prompted a global effort to crack down on the sources of funds used to back terrorism.

"We've had our own situation in the Philippines, so we wanted to do this because we wanted to address the possibility of money laundering in the Philippines as a way of deterring some other crimes that we have been fighting," he said.

Camacho did not divulge specific details of his meetings with O'Neill but said they discussed measures for better information sharing on funds.

"It is more how we can better cooperate in terms of information sharing and how we can help each other in capacity building," he said.

"We're hoping to learn from the experience of the US and other countries and technical assistance can be very useful for enforcement of this (anti-money laundering) law," he said.

He said a team from the Philippines could visit the United States for technical training or US officials could visit Manila. *Reuters*

Ople urges Palace to make list of terrorists

MALACANANG should list down the country's terrorists and publicize the list to help in the global fight against terrorism, Sen. Blas Ople said yesterday.

Addressing a forum sponsored by the Senate committees on national defense and foreign relations and the Center for National Security Management, Ople said the Philippine-publicized list of terrorists and its recognition by fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations "can help us fight international terrorism."

"But we need the executive branch, especially the Chief Executive, to take the lead in identifying the terrorists who own assets in bank accounts, solicit funds and support from abroad, and commit acts of terrorism against the people," Ople, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said in a speech.

The senator said by identifying these terrorists, it could lead to the expulsion of terrorist leaders from abroad and their repatriation, as well as the closure of their international offices.

He noted that the United States had already identified terrorist organizations, which included the Abu Sayyaf, as well as states and governments sponsoring and hosting them as the main object of the allied strikes against terrorism.

Ople also said since "Muslim restiveness" has been reported in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, Manila should "share (its) concern with these two countries that have helped us in the search for peace in Mindanao."

"Relations between known terrorists in our country should be exposed and dealt with on a bilateral and multilateral basis, perhaps in matters pertaining to extradition and border patrols at the very least," he said.

For his part, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, called for the creation of a national commission on terrorism to serve as "focal point of all anti-terrorism activities."

Magsaysay said this could be an "ad hoc body to be pooled from the expertise of the National Security Council, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police," among others.

Gloria going to Mexico after meeting Bush

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will meet with US President George W. Bush at the White House on Nov. 20, an occasion the Philippine government said would be a timely tribute to half a century of defense cooperation between the two countries.

Bush will host Ms Macapagal on the 50th anniversary of the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty. An official statement from the Philippine government noted the alliance was born during the Cold War but is now as important as ever "as the two countries work together to combat the threats of the 21st century."

In announcing the Nov. 20 meeting, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said, "The Sept. 11 attacks on the United States have reinforced the strength and vitality of this partnership," the Associated Press reported.

Ms Macapagal, who will be in the US on Nov. 18-20, will also meet with other US officials and members of Congress. She is also scheduled to visit the Pentagon in Washington and the World Trade Center in New York, sites of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the US. She will also address the United Nations General Assembly.

After the US, President Macapagal is slated to go to Mexico to address a conference of European and Latin American nations that belong to the Christian Democrats International.

Presidential political adviser Jose Rufino said the CDI conference would take place on Nov. 20-21 and would be attended by heads of states and prime ministers from the Philippines, Spain, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Norway, Chile and the Benelux countries, among other nations.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, incumbent CDI vice president, will accompany the President to the conference. *Juliet L. Javellana, with an AP report*

19 century Pinoy dress

AS PART of its lecture series, the Museum Foundation of the Philippines is sponsoring a lecture on "19th Century Philippine Dress" by Ramon N. Villegas.

The lecture will be held at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People, National Museum Complex, Rizal Park, on Oct. 13 at 10 a.m.

Villegas will summarize what we know of 19th century Philippine dress and personal adornment in terms of materials, stylistic influences, traditions, and historico-cultural matrices. The lecture is open to the public. Registration start at 9 a.m. and includes a free tour of the museum. For information, call Jing or Michelle at 813-0771.

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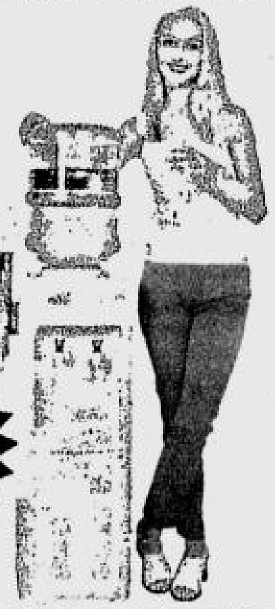

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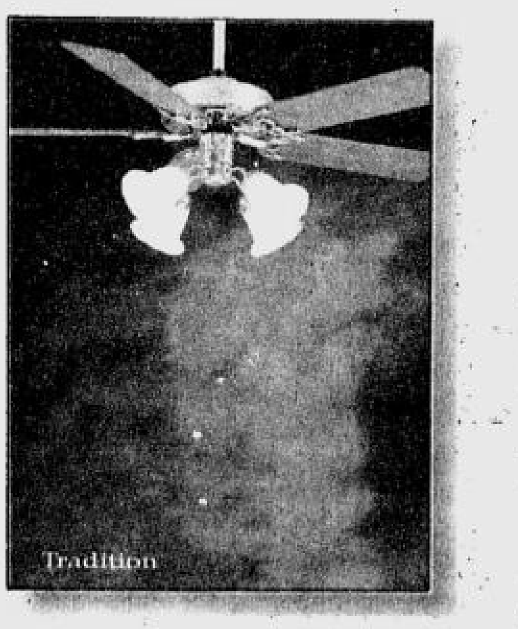

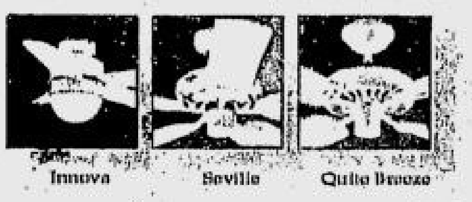

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INQUIRER Chair Marixi Prieto receives a token of appreciation from World Wildlife Fund Trustee Ernesto Garilao during the WWF Philippines' fifth anniversary celebration yesterday at the AIM building. Looking on is Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, WWF chair. The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a corporate partner of the international environmental organization.

Oil firms slash prices

By R. Domingo

DESPITE fears of a possible oil crisis due to the war in Afghanistan, local oil companies yesterday slashed fuel prices between 21 and 35 centavos per liter, citing improved market conditions in August and September.

Caltex Philippines Inc. reduced the prices of its gasoline products by 35 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 25 centavos per liter effective last night.

At the same time, Petron Corp. cut its gasoline prices by 32 centavos per liter and of its diesel and kerosene by 22 centavos per liter.

Other oil firms also made their price rollbacks effective midnight last night.

New player Eastern Petroleum Corp. made the biggest cut at 35 centavos per liter of gasoline and 25 centavos per liter of diesel and kerosene.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. slashed prices of its gasoline by 33 centavos per liter and of its diesel and kerosene by 21 centavos per liter.

TotalFinaElf Philippines Corp. reduced prices by 32 centavos and 22 centavos per liter of gasoline and of diesel and kerosene, respectively.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc., another new player, rolled back prices by 20 centavos per liter of gasoline and by 25 centavos per liter of diesel.

Officials of the oil firms said the new prices reflected the reduction in world crude prices and the improvement of the foreign exchange rate in August and September.

Dubai crude prices averaged $24.12 per barrel in September, down by 41 cents from $24.53 in August.

On the other hand, the peso averaged P51.27 to the dollar last month, up by 60 centavos from P51.87 last August.

Fernando Martinez, president of Eastern Petroleum, said the firm could have cut its prices by 10 centavos more had the peso stabilized at P51 to the dollar.

"Some of our service stations in the provinces actually reduced prices earlier to match Seaoil and Flying V," said Martinez in a telephone interview.

On Sept. 29, new oil industry players Seaoil Petroleum Corp. slashed prices of gasoline by 20 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 25 centavos per liter.

Flying V, also a new player, followed suit on Oct. 2 with a reduction of between 20 centavos and 30 centavos per liter.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu said the rollback was due to softening crude and refined oil prices in the world market.

He said prices softened because of a larger-than-expected reduction in demand for oil and due to concerns over a worldwide economic recession.

Also yesterday, industrialist Raul Concepcion said another fuel price rollback could be expected in November.

Concepcion, who chairs the private sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said the November rollback will be due to world crude prices going below the $22 per barrel standard which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries aims to maintain.

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BSP tells 2 banks to open Duty Free accounts

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has ordered two banks to divulge information on the accounts of Tourist Duty Free Shops Inc., following the banks' refusal to respond to a query by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes asked the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and the Bank of America to reveal the balances and transactions made in the accounts of the company which was sequestered by the government in 1987.

In an Oct. 10 letter, Reyes asked officials of the two banks to "provide information requested (by) the PCGG immediately" concerning the Tourist Duty Free Shops Inc. accounts.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said the banks have yet to act on the BSP order but the PCGG was giving them until today to do so.

"We don't know the amounts contained in the accounts; there has been no update since 1987 (when the accounts were frozen)," Carranza said.

"The original freeze was done through the BSP, that's why we're asking for their assistance now," he added.

The accounts in the two banks totaled P12 million when they were frozen in 1987, but the amounts have grown with interest, according to the PCGG.

In a controversial ruling, the Sandiganbayan had enjoined the PCGG from implementing the writ of sequestration on the company, despite confirmation of the writ by the Supreme Court, and allowed the release of the funds.

The anti-graft court later issued another order suspending implementation of its first order, pending the trial for recovery against former Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco and his late wife, Gliceria, owners of Tourist Duty Free Shops Inc.

"They said it was to avoid judicial apostacy," so I supposed it means they don't want to go against the decision of the Supreme Court," Carranza said.

The PCGG through the Office of the Solicitor General will go back to the Sandiganbayan in November for the continuation of the trial of the Tantocos.

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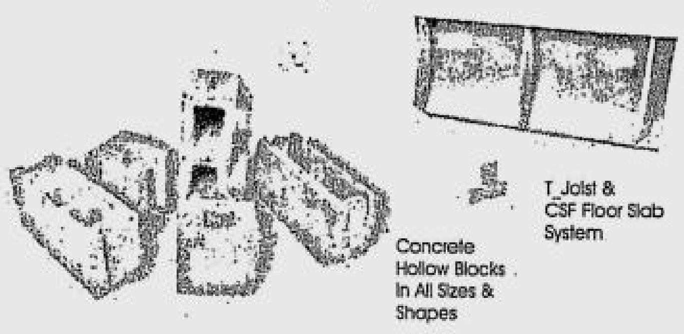

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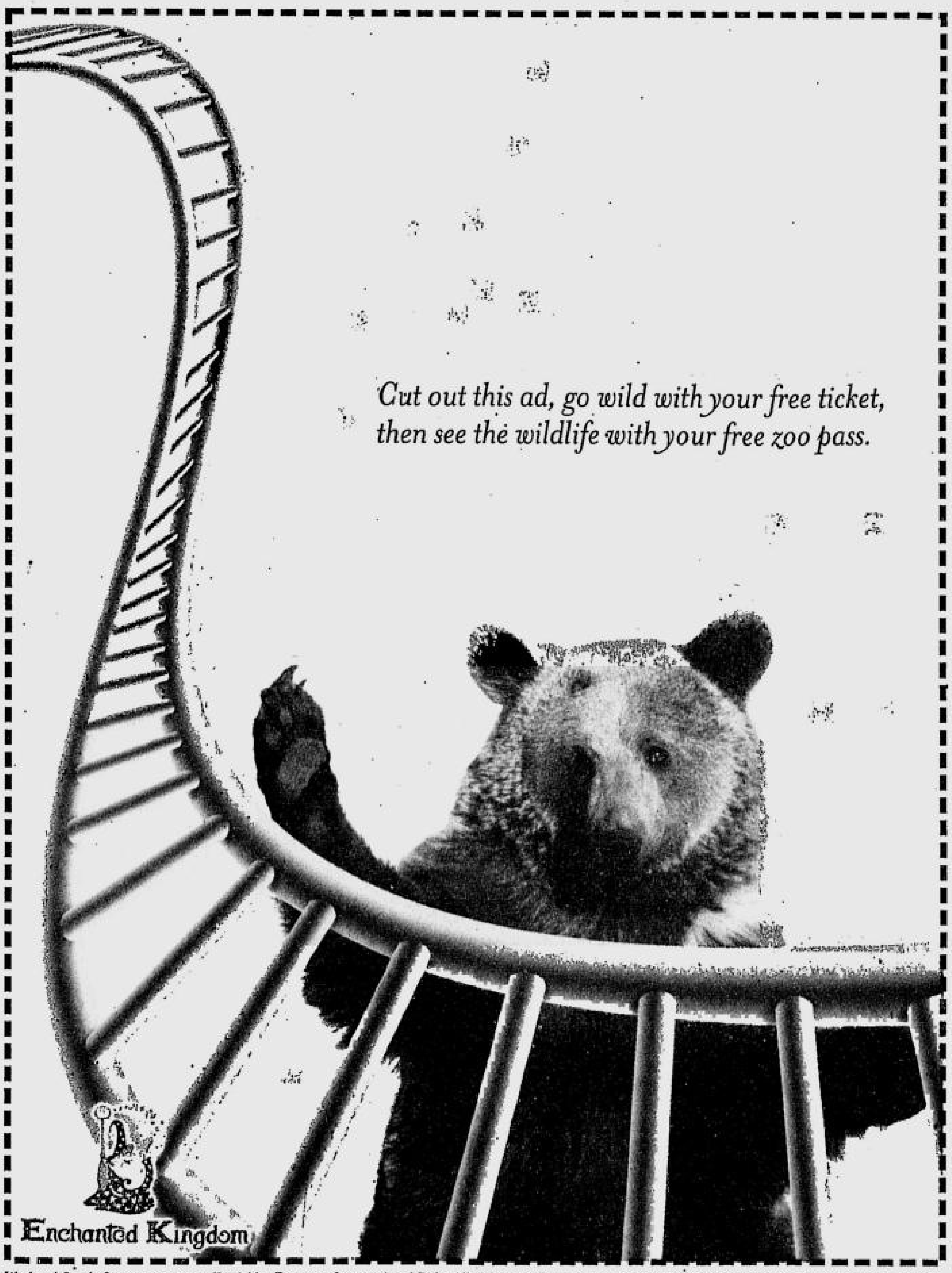

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OPINION

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Opened door

EDITORIALS

THE BACKLASH against the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan has begun, with street protests swelling not only in the expected arenas of Asia and the Middle East but also in sundry parts of the planet like Greece and Australia. And what the Greek protesters called an "imperialist war" is likely to draw more outrage than not as the United States continues to unleash firepower on Afghan cities and embarks, as reported by the New York Times, on "covert and overt actions" on terrorist groups in other countries, notably the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. Is this an intimation of what lies beyond the door that, as Al-Qaida spokesperson Sulaiman Abu Ghaith warned, America had opened, and that "will never be closed"?

Not that the street protests are startling, or entirely unexpected by the United States and Britain, its primary ally. The US government is not known to back down from the frown or fury of public opinion, particularly if its status as the globe's sole superpower is challenged. But that it took a while for it to "punish" Afghanistan's ruling Taliban for refusing to surrender Osama bin Laden indicated an acknowledgement of America's vulnerability—the vulnerability exhibited so dramatically in the Sept. 11 atrocity that killed more than 6,000 people. The prospect of more attacks on its citizens, on home grounds, as a possible result of military action on Afghanistan could not but have given it pause.

Thus the repeated declarations of President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair that the military campaign against terrorism is not a war on Islam. Thus the "food drops" accompanying the bomb and missile attacks on Kabul, Kandahar and other places in the Afghan wasteland. All of which represent a sea change in the stance of the mighty superpower that has thought nothing of keeping itself above life-and-death issues like global warming or the establishment of an international criminal court.

Still, the air is thin at the top, and US officials have noted that not everyone is getting the message that Islam is not the target in the war against Bin Laden and his Taliban protectors. Muslims, treated throughout history as the "other," are outraged that their Afghan brothers and sisters are being sacrificed in this war. Their anger is profoundly clear. And their voices find resonance in the hearts and minds of those who remember and who seek in the pages of history the context of America's vulnerability to what the "others" on the planet have experienced and continue to experience by the day.

It's true. For this war to fulfill its avowed purpose, it must be swift. For now, only the images of Afghan refugees and dim outlines of bombed-out training camps approximate the unfolding horror. When—or should we say if—the images of dead Afghans begin to be flashed around the world, there will be hell to pay.

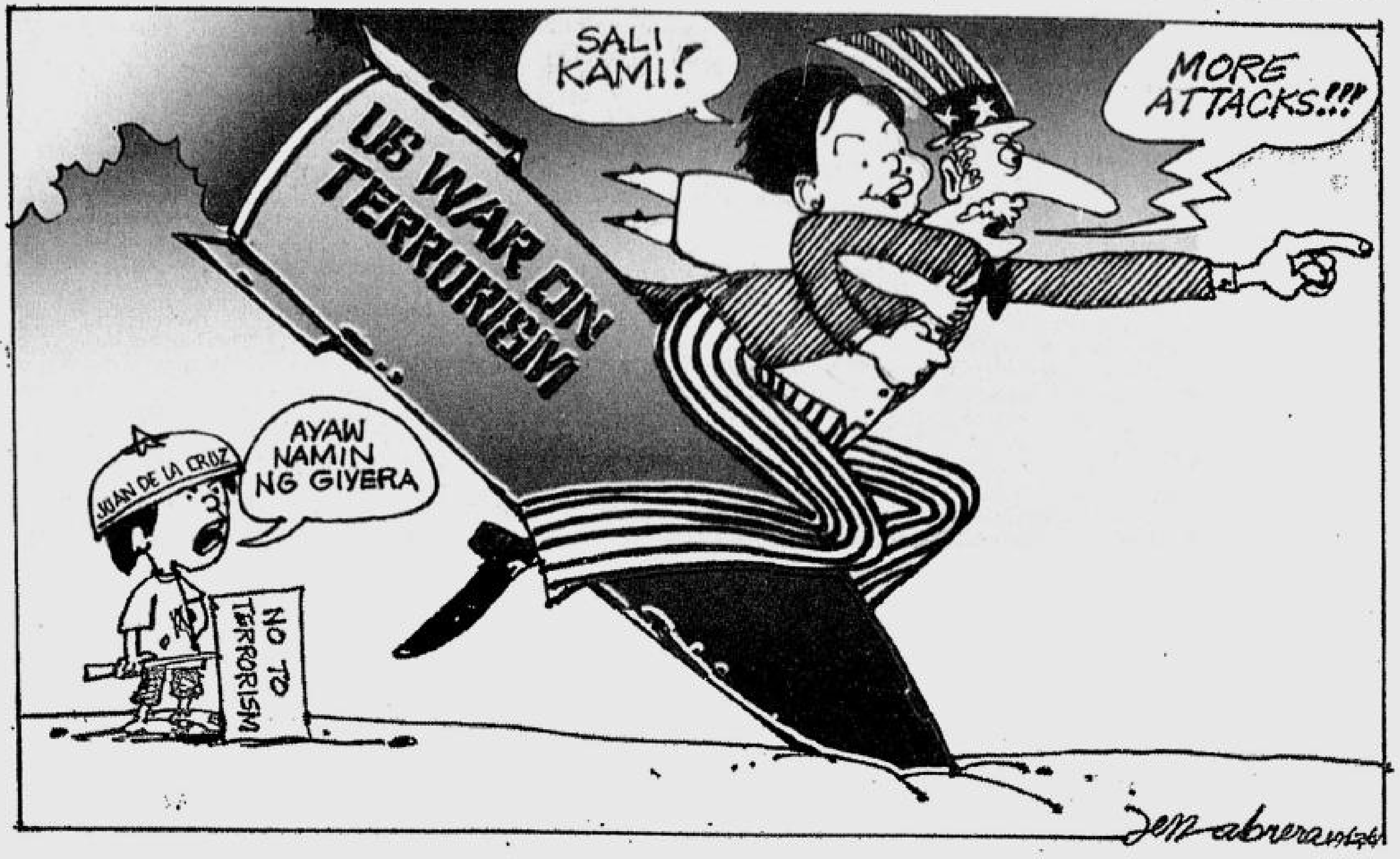
Early on the American activist Noam Chomsky put it succinctly: "The likelihood is that an attack on Afghans will have pretty much the effect that most analysts expect: it will enlist great numbers of others to support Bin Laden, as he hopes. Even if he is killed, it will make little difference. His voice will be heard on cassettes that are distributed throughout the Islamic world, and he is likely to be revered as a martyr."

On a plate

THE PHILIPPINES' fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations appear loath to embrace the all-out position it has taken vis-á-vis the US-led war on terrorism. This is awkward, at the very least, and does nothing to boost the country's standing in the region. It also trains added light on the unseemly haste with which President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration offered, as though on a plate, the use of Subic and Clark to the US government even when staunch American allies—Saudi Arabia, say—were hedging their bets.

To be sure, the Abu Sayyaf has shown the world a variety of terrorism plaguing this country. To be sure, the military has yet to write finis to the group despite many announcements of an imminent rout. With its all-out position, the Philippines seems to pin all its hopes of wiping out the Abu Sayyaf on the United States.

It should take a leaf from the other Asean members, which will agree to a proposed statement on terrorism only if the focus is on its root causes. Or the Arab countries that condemned the Sept. 11 attacks but called for a just settlement of the Palestine-Israel conflict as a means to prevent terrorist acts.



Readers react to human cruelty to animals

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MY e-mail was deluged with readers' reactions to two columns (PDI, 9/28/01, 10/5/01) about man's cruelty to animals. My heart swelled with the realization that so many people around the world do care for animals. I like to think that those who don't are only thoughtless, carried away by habit and culture and that if they only take the time to ponder, they would also come to realize that they are being cruel to animals.

The e-mail came both from Filipinos and from foreigners but it is significant that mail that came from abroad are much more numerous than those written here. Could it be that foreigners care more for animals than we?

To show what they think, some of them are quoted here, edited and shortened to accommodate as many as space permits. Here they are:

As the international organizer of World Farm Animals Day on Oct. 2 (Gandhi's birthday), I would like to thank you very much for your forthright, courageous editorial on animal rights. Your piece will contribute substantially to raising public awareness to the tragedy of animal agriculture.—**Alex Hershaft, national chair, World Farm Animals Day**

* * *

Thank you so much for your wonderful article! I can't tell you how much it means to see someone in the media use his considerable power to give a voice to those without one.—**Tricia Greene, Pennsylvania**

* * *

Thank you for your recent two columns on the treatment of animals and pets in this country. I am one of those "ex-pats" living here for a couple of years trying to develop and grow a viable business employing Filipinos. My wife and I love this country, it has so much to offer its people and the world. But for some reason it seems intent on self-destruction. It seems that no-one cares either for the country or for their fellowmen.

So what chance do the animals have? We have rescued many animals and have taken them to the vet for treatment with the hope they will be adopted by kind families. Fortunately this has often been the case. We have taken in a number ourselves, and these will be repatriated with us when we leave.

There is an old saying where I come from (New Zealand): "You can judge a country by the way it treats its animals."

I rest my case.—**David Bridgman, Salcedo Village, Makati City**

* * *

I read your article about animal rights and I strongly agree with you. I am Sarah Mae C. Fajardo, a college student from the Far Eastern University. I myself love animals and as a matter of fact, I own three dogs and five cats, all of whom are "pulot" as they say. It hurts me so much when I see acts of cruelty to animals. Somehow, I have developed this hatred for man. And when I tell my classmates about it, they just ignore me and one even thought I was "overreacting." Doesn't it hurt when you go to school depressed after your pet just died and when your friends ask you what's wrong and you tell them the reason, they just say something like "ah" and turn their backs?

I am so glad to know there are still people like you and your family who care for our little friends. Thank heavens! I also would like to take this chance to ask you where I could contact PAWS. I just would like to ask them a few questions regarding one of their programs. (*The Philippine Animal Welfare Society can be reached at 67 Small Horseshoe Drive, New Manila, Quezon City 1112, Tel. No. 724-6395, telefax 724-1986.*—**NHC**)

Thank you so much for sparing me a piece of your time and may God bless you and your family always, and same goes with the animals.—**Sarah**

* * *

Bravo to you for your strong stand on animal rights. (PDI, 10/5/01) People forget (or are they ignorant of the fact?) that compassion for fellow human beings (wherein they will not kill, hurt or cheat another person) is possible only when they have developed compassion for other beings like animals.

Please, please write more on this subject as the sooner the Filipinos become compassionate to animals, the sooner there will be peace.—**Edmund Garcia**

* * *

Such a compassionate and insightful article by Neal Cruz on the rights of animals. We in the United States are just as guilty as those in the Philippines. Not as bad as some countries, but worse than others. The animals need people such as Mr. Cruz to speak for them since they are unable to speak for themselves. This brings to mind a radio broadcast by Paul Harvey some years ago when he quoted Mahatma Ghandi. "If animals had a voice, they would state a damning case against the human race." "Perhaps someday they will." With people like you, perhaps they do.—**Peggy Reist**

* * *

I am writing to applaud Neal Cruz's article, "Animals Have Rights Too," and to thank you for having the bravery to publish it. I am an animal rights/animal protection lawyer in New York and day in and day out I hear about atrocities perpetrated on animals. Whether it's so-called food animals raised in intensive confinement systems who live short, miserable lives before being slaughtered, or animals used in laboratories to test the latest shampoo or mouthwash, or family "pets" who are thrown out on the street by "owners" who no longer find them amusing, most so- called "civilized" societies unfortunately, do not think twice before exploiting nonhuman animals for their own ends. I often feel that the situation is a hopeless one. But then I'll read the compassionate words of someone like Mr. Cruz, who is unafraid to speak the truth and I can't help but think that his words must have touched at least one other person and that maybe there is hope, after all.—**Amy Trakinski, New York, NY**

Justice

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AMID America's preparations for war last week, prefaced by public revelations of Osama bin Laden's culpability in the World Trade Center attacks, it seemed like insignificant news. And so was buried in the inside pages of a few newspapers, and little merited mention in primetime news.

But last Thursday, an American federal court dismissed the class suit filed by Asian women, including Filipino women, against Japan for wholesale rape during World War II. Specifically, the class suit filed by the so-called "comfort women," the sex slaves the Japanese imperial army kept in the countries they ruthlessly occupied. Judge Henry Kennedy ruled that while it was true that Japan committed the crimes it was being accused of—it "tortured, beat, mutilated and sometimes murdered" the Asian women—the court could do nothing to appease them. First, because the case was beyond American jurisdiction. And secondly, because Japan has sovereign immunity from prosecution.

At another time, this case might have merely been cause for debate on the tangle of international jurisprudence. But coming as it did shortly before America bombed Afghanistan in quest of infinite justice, it gives rise to questions not just about the tangle of international jurisprudence but the tangle of international morality.

The plaintiffs' lawyer, Michael Hausfeld, put it succinctly when he said, "Today's decision, if permitted to stand, will allow any country anywhere to commit crimes against humanity without accountability." What does that say about the American commitment—or indeed the commitment of the global community—to fight terrorism in whatever form and whatever time it rears its ugly head?

Strictly speaking, it is not true that the case is out of American jurisprudence, at least in one respect, which is that of the Philippines. The Philippines was not an independent country when its women were made to comfort Japanese troops in ways anime never imagined. It was an American colony. Filipinos did not just owe allegiance to their flag, they owed allegiance to the American flag. They did not just sing "Lupang Hinirang," they sang the "Star-Spangled Banner." This country was in every sense America's own. A crime against Filipinos at that time was a crime at least against American wards, if not against American citizens.

As to Japan having sovereign immunity from prosecution, that is clearly a deterrent only to the irresolute. At the very least, it is ironic that an American judge should discover the majesty of that principle while the American president was busy scuttling the even more majestic principle of the sovereign will of states. The Taliban were saying they betrayed everything they held sacred by giving up a guest just because a powerful country demanded it. George Bush said not so because morality took precedence over diplomacy, justice took precedence over law, an unequivocal good took precedence over custom and belief. Why doesn't the same thing apply to the "comfort women"? Surely, their grief must take precedence over diplomatic conventions? Surely their personal rights must take precedence over national interests? Surely, their tears must burst like floodwaters to fill the gap of the intervening years?

Certainly, the "comfort women" have presented a better case before the world. The world agrees that they have been wronged, the world agrees that they have been gratuitously wronged. America has not. The world agrees America has been wronged, the world agrees the Americans who died in New York have been gratuitously wronged. But the world cannot agree that America itself did not help create the wrong it means to right. Gaze at face of the Taliban, and that of Bin Laden himself, and see if America is not writ large there.

The dismissal of the case of the "comfort women" seems a completely minor development in light of the awesome things that currently hold us in their grip. But it does raise questions about the nature of the fight against terrorism, about the nature of morality, about the nature of good and evil.

Chief of those questions being: What is terrorism? Does it happen only when American lives are lost, or does it happen as well when Muslim children die in Bosnia or Iraq, or when Asian women are raped in a war everyone has forgotten? Does it happen only when a bunch of religious fanatics run around vowing death to Americans, or does it happen as well when military officials and corporate moguls meet in boardrooms scorning life in lush jungles and arid deserts? Does it happen only when madmen believing themselves to be divinely ordained crash hijacked airplanes into the bosom of America, or does it happen as well when madmen believing themselves to be divine emperors unleash sex-starved soldiers into the bosom of a country that never did them any harm?

Or more to the point, the case of the "comfort women" asks the question: Where do other victims of terrorism go to get redress? What may other victims of terrorism do to find infinite justice? America is attacked, it can always mount a global coalition to demand that a Stone Age country hand over America's scourge—or be made even stonier that it already is. Where can the hobbling millions of Afghans go to ask for the CIA head who supplied the land mines that made them so? Where can the residents of Bhopal, as Arundhati Roy points out, go to ask for the CEO of Union Carbide—whose guilt is beyond shadow of doubt—who sent 16,000 of their kin to meet their Hindu Maker?

Where can the thousands of Asian women, some of whom have died while waiting for the world to remember, go to stoke the world's conscience and so find for themselves justice, if only of the finite variety?

Smearing the press

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

FOUR journalists were smeared in a document circulated in the Senate, purporting to show that their spouses were given government posts "as reward for their being staunchly pro-GMA in their" writings. They are Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, columnist of the INQUIRER; Randy David, also an INQUIRER columnist; Carmen Pedrosa, a Philippine Star columnist; and Marichu Villanueva, reporter of the Star.

The document also showed that INQUIRER columnist Tony Carpio, was appointed director of Petron. To show how sneaky and malicious the document is, thriving on the theory of guilt by association, and how erroneous the report is; the truth is that Carpio did not accept the appointment.

According to the document, Cunanan's husband, retired Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, former Philippine ambassador to Cambodia, has been appointed president of the Philippine National Oil Co.; David's wife, Karina Constantino, has been appointed chair of the Civil Service Commission; Pedrosa's husband, Alberto Pedrosa, has been appointed director of the PNOC; and Villanueva's husband, Catalino Flores Jr., has been appointed director of RPN-9, a government broadcasting station.

To begin with, the document did not merely imply conflict of interest on the part of these journalists but it made the sweeping accusation that the appointments were doled out as rewards. Calling them "staunchly pro-GMA" is not founded on fact, is erroneous and does violence to the truth. A review of what they have written will clearly show how reckless and sweeping the statement is. The statement is pure and unadulterated character assassination carried out in the despicable style of terrorist attacks on innocent people.

Journalists can criticize or praise government, but to say that those who praise government are dishonest and have been bought is a reckless charge. The implication of this reckless charge is that only those who relentlessly criticize government are honest. No serious journalist who has a responsibility for his or her job can buy this line. It is totally unacceptable.

The malicious accusation implies that Cunanan, David, Pedrosa and Villanueva have no minds of their own, and are constantly colluding with their spouses to slant their writings in favor of the Macapagal administration. In reality, these persons who have been smeared are honest, decent, hard-working and responsible journalists who write their own point of view, often provoking disagreement. I have had strong disagreements with Cunanan over public issues, with Pedrosa and with David, but I don't think that their writings were driven by the motive to pay back favors owed government.

General Cunanan, Karina David and Alberto Pedrosa are public functionaries with excellent qualifications for their jobs. As far as I know, they are strong characters and they are not the type that will impose their own views on their journalist spouses. On the other hand, these journalists who have been tarred by this so-called white paper on the press have often strong views about public issues, and their spouses would have to think hard before they ever try to interfere with their views, lest they disturb domestic peace.

Karina David, in particular, quit the Estrada administration after discovering the fraud of his pro-poor housing program. Randy David made his own break with Estrada after having been disillusioned with his administration. General Cunanan has been a professional soldier and a servant of the republic, regardless of administrations. The attack on these targets of alleged conflict of interest fell widely off the mark.

But the weakest element of this sweeping accusation is that it is based on a hypothesis that these journalists write commentaries as a pay-off for the appointment of their spouses to government jobs. This accusation makes a quantum leap from hypothesis to conclusion. Whoever is responsible for the preparation of this so-called white paper, the intention seems to be to intimidate and blackmail journalists into not writing things favorable to the government on pain of being tagged as having been bought by the government with sinecures and other favors.

If the plan to smear independent journalists comes from the opposition, then it has not learned the lesson about dealing with the media under the Estrada administration. Under the Estrada regime, most of the media were pro-Estrada and were used to disseminate untruthful and misleading information. I don't say they were paid. I would like to think their deafening and indiscriminate pro-Estrada position was driven by their conviction.

But for all the inundation of pro-Estrada opinion and obviously slanted pro-Estrada news and information, this overwhelming bias did not help Estrada at all. It did not stop the filing of the impeachment complaints against him and it did not avert the collapse of his administration.

Robert Rivero, who has links to the opposition, claims that there's a plan by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the President's public relations man, Dante Ang, to buy off media men with government appointments. Rivero betrays his ignorance of the dynamics of the press. Buying the press en masse has never helped any government in this country. Governments are rejected and lose elections not because they are able to buy off the press but because they become so corrupt that their corruption can't be hidden from the people and because they fail to deliver results.

President Macapagal does not need Ang to help her to be an effective President, and if there's such a plan to buy off the media, she'd better drop it like a hot coal. If she is getting a relatively good press now, it is because she is doing better than Estrada, although there are signs that she is beginning to falter in her performance. Her press is better not because of Ang. The President's record is her best PR. If the opposition is to succeed in discrediting her administration, it should scrutinize her performance. It can't demolish the administration by engaging in a plot to smear the press based on innuendoes.

Filipino students in Spain

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

MADRID—"Do you know that there is a Rizal in each one of us?" starts a primer written by Jaime Marco and revised by UP historian Jimmy Veneracion in "Rizal's Madrid," which guides the visitor to the 19th century Madrid that was home to Rizal and his famous colleagues as students and exiles from the Philippines. There are 11 sites, starting with his first residence when he arrived in Madrid in September 1882, which recapture the student life of Rizal who led a spartan existence.

The most well-known of these sites is the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad de Madrid where Rizal studied medicine before proceeding to Paris to specialize in ophthalmology. One can imagine the tremendous strain and stress he was under because by this time his mother in the Philippines was going blind.

Then there's the famous Ateneo de Madrid where Rizal regularly attended theater performances, poetry readings, music recitals and book launchings. It was also here where he studied English, though the Ateneo during Rizal's time was an exclusive elite club for men of letters rather than the educational institution that we know today.

The "hangouts" of Rizal and the other "indios bravos" are still very much around, properly marked for the modern tourist. One is Los Gabrieles whose beautiful murals made of tiles captivated Rizal so much he wrote about them in letters to his sisters. Another is the Viva Madrid, which Graciano Lopez Jaena also frequented. And finally, the imposing Hotel Ingles was the most celebrated site of Filipino expatriate community activity in Madrid. In 1884, for instance, the Hotel Ingles was the venue for the banquet in honor of the talented artists Juan Luna and Resurreccion Hidalgo, who had won international prizes for their paintings. It was here that Rizal delivered a stirring nationalist speech which did not please Spanish authorities.

Now, more than a century later, this area is quite an inspiration for Filipino students in Spain. Because I had so much time from being stranded after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in New York, I sought out one of them who had attended the Philippine Studies conference in Alcala. He had kindly given me his cell phone number and offered to help in case I was in trouble.

His name is Francis Navarro, nicknamed "Chas," which I first thought was short for "Charles." He is a Ph.D. student in History at the University of Salamanca, specializing in a field that will be critical to the writing of history—archival management and preservation. I don't know of any other graduate student, not even at the University of Hawaii, who is majoring in this challenging field.

Chas graduated from UP and taught at the university's Department of History from 1985 to 88. He later earned a master's degree from the Institute of Small-Scale Industries at UP, focusing on managing small business, thinking one day he would inherit his father's business in Naujan, Mindoro.

But he wasn't destined to be a businessman. In 1992 the Center for Research and Communication in Manila, which was to become the University of Asia and the Pacific, recruited him as a senior instructor in Philippine history. He stayed in that post until 1997, a year that was going to open doors for him. Whereabouts? To Spain.

He saw an announcement for a scholarship under the auspices of the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI), which is part of the Spanish Foreign Ministry in charge of international aid. It is somewhat similar to Fulbright in terms of providing fellowships to foreign students, especially from the Philippines, South America and former colonies of Spain. Chas applied for the scholarship and was interviewed by Neda, which had an arrangement with AECI to process applications. He was also interviewed by the Instituto de Cervantes in Manila, to test for proficiency in Spanish. He was asked to prepare a proposal and he indicated that he was interested in archival management. He was interested in the Simancas archive in Valladolid, which King Philip II had set up to house documents pertaining to the "reconquista" and the reign of Ferdinand and Isabela. He was also interested in the Archivos de Indias in Seville.

The Spanish government assigned Chas to the University of Salamanca, and he couldn't have been more thrilled because the university has a very good program on archival management. Over lunch, he spent a great deal of time talking about Salamanca, understandably.

Salamanca is the oldest university in Spain, and the fourth oldest in Europe after Bologna, Sorbonne and Oxford. It was established in 1218 by King Alfonso X, then reigning monarch of Castile and Leon. Chas said the king knew that Salamanca was a very cold place. And that by setting up a university there, students would warm their minds by studying, and their feet by continuously walking to the library. It reminded me of Cornell where I went to graduate school. We used to say "colder than Siberia," though we had never been to Siberia.

Chas recalls that there were more than 20 in his group coming from the Philippines, but he can account for only five of them now. He is now at that stage where he is ready to write his dissertation, in Spanish, of course, which would be defended before a committee including his adviser/tutor. He has taken courses in paleography, medieval history, conservation and preservation of documents, documentation and a number of electives. All along, he had to undergo intensive language training. Now he is as remarkably fluent as a native speaker.

His dissertation topic is intriguing. It proposes legislation for Philippine archives based on the model of Castile and Leon. Each province has a system of archiving, and Chas believes that the National Archives in Manila can replicate this in other Philippine locations. In 1998, Spanish representatives met with the director of the National Archives in Manila to explore this project, which has implications for the development of archival science in the country.

No doubt, the future Dr. Chas Navarro will be a much welcome addition to Philippine academia in a field that is highly specialized, but critical to the conservation and preservation of knowledge on the Philippine past under Spain. There will be many international institutions vying to hire him after he finishes, but I told him as we parted that my greatest hope was that he will return to the Philippines to develop a whole new field in Philippine studies with his newly acquired expertise.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Honoring women and their work

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JESSICA Soho came onstage flanked by two cute nieces; Leah Reyes, who is legally blind, confidently made her own way to the stage; while all the other women honored as this year's TOWNS awardees came with spouse, children, family members.

This merely underscores, I think, what the awardees, almost to a "woman," said in their acceptance remarks: they could not have done it by themselves. The married women almost always acknowledged their "supportive" spouses and children, while others said that without the support of their parents and siblings, they would not have been able to accomplish all that they did. Soho was an exception, though, laughingly mentioning that her parents had not been entirely "supportive" of her career as a journalist braving all sorts of risks to get a story. "Thank you for your understanding instead," she told her folks.

Marvie Abesamis, awardee for medicine—children's health care, said she wanted to share her award with the hundreds of children with cancer whom she has cared for, thanking them for their trust in "making me part of their lives." She also noted that there are 2,300 new cases of pediatric cancer reported in this country each year.

Dr. Bernie Madrid, cited for her pioneering work at the Child Protection Unit of the PGH, likewise shared the honor granted her with "all the women working in the CPU." Reyes, awardee for education for special children, told her teachers at Bridges, the school she founded for children with developmental disorders, that "this award is for all of us." Antoinette Juinio-Menez, awardee for science—marine ecology, singled out "fishers around the country with whom I have worked and am learning from." The same sentiment was shared by Clarita Aganon, awardee for government service—agriculture, who said the recognition for her work on finding ways to make "lahar" lands productive is shared by her colleagues at the Central Luzon State University, and the funding agencies that made their work possible.

* * *

OTHER awardees chose the occasion to discuss their work, its significance to the life of the country, and the hope engendered by this most recent honor.

Olivia Damasco, awardee for agriculture—plant tissue culture, in her acceptance speech noted how plant tissue culture is a technology particularly suited for women. "It requires a lot of patience," she said, to the audience's amusement, and involves "nurturing plants in bottles and watching over them, very much like mothering."

Grace Nono-Aves, awardee for contemporary culture-based music, arts and culture, sought to explain the role that "culture plays in nation-building," particularly in creating a cultural identity for our people, uniting the nation and teaching values.

Queena Lee-Chua, awardee for education, prepared a speech in behalf of all the awardees until it was decided to let each of them give their own remarks. She decided to read portions of that response, instead. It opened with a poem by a young Indian student, speaking of "women's language of silence" and the need to provide "words to those who cannot speak." Together, she said, they were dedicating their awards to the "women of Afghanistan," whose life under the Taliban regime has come under scrutiny, and symbolizes everything that the women of TOWNS, past and present, have struggled against.

* * *

BUT it was Clarissa Ocampo, cited for extraordinary public service, who gave one of the most moving responses. Recognized for her courage in testifying against former President Estrada, testimony which turned the tide in the impeachment trial, Ocampo said she often asked herself: "What is it that I did?"

She didn't feel particularly qualified for the honor, she added, because what she did was "what everyone should do faced with a similar situation—tell the truth." Her feeling is, she noted, that "God had a plan, and chose me to do it. Once I realized this, the fear that I felt in the beginning just went away."

Her life has changed since the testimony, said Ocampo (she still needs security when moving about the city), but she harbors few regrets and is grateful for the opportunity given her to "perform my duty."

Her dream, she said, is that "my simple act will change this country for the better." The decisive test that determined her choice to come forward and testify, she said, was "looking at my children, my two boys and daughter, and wondering what their future would be like if I did not speak out. I love this country, and I wanted them to grow up here and be proud of it."

Indeed, women achievers may emphasize that any honors they garner have to be shared with the people who inspire, support and validate them. But at the end of the day, what matters most is a single woman making up her mind to defy the roles that tradition has supposedly consigned her to, and giving her all and doing her best in her own field, while seeking to serve others in the process.

* * *

WE, the TOWNS awardees past and present, are grateful to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her presence and graciousness in allowing the use of the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall for this year's ceremonies.

We in the TOWNS Chorale are also thankful that she deigned to sit through our two numbers, which felt like an ordeal while we were onstage, but which we hope was far more enjoyable to those who had to listen to us. For the feat of gathering 15 TOWNS-women to rehearse twice a week for two months and give a tolerable performance, we must acknowledge the hard work of Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo and our rehearsal master, Al Mendoza.

And for working so hard to make the awards rites a success, we must acknowledge TOWNS officers led by Mel Alonzo, president and Evelyn Singson, treasurer; as well as former Sen. Letty Ramos Shahani and Cristina Yuson, co-chairs of the Search; and Imelda Villar, Mel Aquino, Lorna Kapunan, Elsa Payumo, Edwina Arroyo, Karina Bolasco, Paulynn Sicam and Celeste.

Tempest over baths

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OUR weather these days changes so quickly—you have heat and humidity one minute and a downpour the next. Should I blame myself or the weather bureau, better known under its wonderful acronym Pagasa, each time I am drenched? Actually, I check the peso-dollar rate and the horoscope in the newspapers more often than the weather "forecast." In other countries you do not leave home without checking the weather. The weather report determines how you will dress and prepare for the day. Some places provide an accurate air quality index complete with pollen alert that forces me indoors or has me reaching for my allergy medicine. Jose Rizal explained away the so-called "indolence of the Filipino" by blaming some of our bad habits on weather. If climate affects us so much why do we take it so lightly?

In 1900 the president of the United States sent a fact-finding commission to the Philippines in order to get a full report on an instant colony they had purchased from Spain at the close of the Spanish-American War for $20 million. The two-volume "Report of the Philippine Commission" is rather boring for me because it deals mostly with the commercial possibilities of the Philippines. I think that we should look into this report again if only to see possibilities and failed hopes. What did the United States see in the Philippines that was so desirable a century ago?

One of the fascinating parts of the report (at least for me) is the one written by physicians who concluded that the climate of the Philippines was not suitable for Americans! It was claimed that the heat interfered with digestion, caused paleness, anemia and diarrhea. On the positive side, the physicians added that actual cases of heat stroke were rare and that people were less likely to catch a cold in a place that was naturally hot! For Americans who had to travel to the Philippines for work or tourism, they recommended wearing very light woolen clothes and an abdominal band. Today, a US travel advisory warns against crime, kidnapping and the sociopolitical situation. A century ago, advice was more practical. This is what they said about baths:

"...A great many people make the mistake of taking cold baths when they are not able to bear them. Bathing is essential, at least one bath a day, but some people, although strong and vigorous, may not be able to bear one cold bath a day at the temperature of Manila water. If, after the bath, the individual has clammy skin and feels depressed, has redness of the eyes and otherwise out of sorts, it would be well to order warm water and bathe the spine. One should never bathe when very hot; that is, if he comes in tired and warm, it is unwise to take a bath at that time. Nor should he bathe on a full stomach, but should take his bath on rising if he is vigorous, but if one does not recuperate rapidly afterwards, it would be better to take a sponge bath in the afternoons or at 11 o'clock in the morning."

A daily bath is second nature to Filipinos so it must have horrified Rizal's family when he wrote home from Spain that he had not taken a bath in a month! On the surface Rizal is displaying his thrift, but the real message must have been to send more money and send it on time. One could almost imagine Paciano telling his brother, "*Suportahan ta ka!*" If Pinoys take a bath daily and the Americans at the turn of the last century were advised to take care when bathing, the opposite was the case in the early years of the Spanish colonial period. Early settlers were shocked that the Filipinos bathed every day. Worse, the Filipinos shared the bath. So, in April 1777 the Spanish governor general issued an edict to prevent, "promiscuity in the baths." Thus signs were put up on the whole length of the Pasig (and even Manila Bay up to Cavite) prohibiting men and women from bathing together in the same river. Or at least close to each other in the same river. To avoid *escandalos* and *pecados publicos* (public scandal and sin) bathers were separated by a distance. Even Archbishop Basilio Sancho, more famous for his move for secularization of the parishes, declared mixed bathing "indecent, abominable and a crime for both Christians and Gentiles."

Le Gentil, an 18th-century traveler, wrote:

"It would be difficult to show me a city where morals are more corrupt than they are in Manila. Religion is powerless to effect any restraint...One of the proofs of this corruption...is the abuse of bathing. Men and women go in bathing together—a monstrous thing which all the eloquence of preachers has not been able as yet to reform; an abuse which will never be reformed as long as there are no police in Manila."

Of course everyone bathed with their clothes on but Le Gentil argued, "...this does not prevent indecency, as it is very easy to observe that the men's drawers, as they leave the bath, stick so closely to the body that one can see its form and the color of the skin...the cloth which is used in Manila for men's shirts and drawers is very thin and transparent...in order to bathe this way with the women, one must be a relative or friend of the family...this custom of mixed bathing is general."

Reading all this makes one realize that there are indeed different styles for different times. *Weder weder lang 'yan.*

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

THEY SAID

Ignorant labeling

"Police and other law enforcement groups should not exhibit the usual ignorance of labeling anyone with Middle Eastern features or surnames as terrorist, and then hauling them off to be fingerprinted and detained."

—Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, warning against stereotyping and racial discrimination

Worst place

"Before today, America was a land of opportunities for me. From today, it would be the worst place on earth because I am a Muslim."

—New Delhi medical student Yasar Shafi on going to America

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Airlines' present woes and air access not linked

WE join Neal Cruz in lauding government's swift and decisive action in saving the local aviation industry from the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States (At I See It, "How the government saved local aviation industry," PDI, 10/9/01). Indeed, all over the world, governments are moving to aid their respective airlines in terms of subsidies and guarantees to ensure their continued operation and viability.

However, we are afraid that Cruz is gravely mistaken in linking the issue of air access to these current financial concerns of the airline industry. Air access liberalization ensures that there are enough available flights to the widest selection of destinations for passengers. It provides the opportunity for the country to have a multitude of air carriers, not just the Philippine Airlines, and for them to have the opportunities to various routes and markets.

Indeed we—the ones Cruz labels as "open skies junkies"—are not against state support for airlines as he erroneously claims. We wholeheartedly welcome state support for the aviation industry through income tax concessions, exemption taxes on fuel and importation of equipment, deep discounts on landing and take-off fees, assistance with insurance coverage and the like.

What we are against is state support for one entity at the expense (and suffering) of 75 million Filipinos.

Yes, the events surrounding the near closure of PAL due to its labor strike in 1998 would not have been damaging to the country and economy had liberalization been seriously implemented by the government. Had there already been multiple international carriers designated by the country then, those others would have simply taken over the gap left by PAL.

In the final analysis, the strike became an opportunity for Lucio Tan to obtain special concessions from the Estrada administration without concern for the national interest. And it was the same self-interest that led to the abrogation of the RP-Taiwan air agreement in 1999, a move that cost the Philippines billions in trade and investment revenues and thousands of jobs for Filipinos.

The present administration is on the right track with its air access liberalization program. It has recently issued the implementing rules and regulations for Executive Order 219 which, among others, prescribes very specific conditions and provisions in the allocation of entitlements and designation of multiple air carriers for the Philippines.

News today from the international aviation scene shows that American and European governments are in a close huddle to ensure that their entitlements are kept, if not expanded, to ensure that their market opportunities grow and not contract. After all, what use are the financial aid and subsidies if the markets to use them are not available?

Should the Philippines revert to closing up its air access as Cruz suggests? That would be regressive. The Philippine government is right to move forward and continue to liberalize air access into the country.—**NARZALINA LIM, chair, and MILA ABAD, president, Freedom to Fly Coalition**

Racist statements of Basilan governor

LETTERS

I AM writing to express our outrage and resentment over the statement issued by Basilan Gov. Wahad Akbar last Oct. 2 ("Basilan no place for Arab-looking people"). His racist and unsavory statement will not only hurt and dishearten the peace-loving Arabs residing in the Philippines or coming on a visit but also every civilized and right-thinking Filipino.

We, the peace-loving people of Basilan, like the rest of the world, strongly condemn the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon and any other acts of terrorism directed against innocent and helpless people. But to single out the Arabs and the Muslims as the people behind every terrorist act is indeed reprehensible and totally unacceptable for there are other non-Muslims and non-Arabs who have committed the same dastardly and callous acts in the past.

When a bomb exploded in Oklahoma City some years back, tearing apart a big building and killing hundreds of people, including children, Americans immediately pointed an accusing finger at Arab-American Muslims, only to discover later that the perpetrator of the crime was a white American who was a Gulf War veteran, Timothy McVeigh. McVeigh was later tried and found guilty and recently put to death by lethal injection.

Most, if not all, of the daily killings in Metro Manila like rape, incest and other nauseating crimes could not be attributed in any way to Muslims but to non-Muslims, of course, although we do admit that some Muslims are unfortunately occasionally involved. This only shows that terrorism can also be committed by non-Muslims and non-Arabs.

The governor said that any Arab or Arab-looking person in Basilan should be arrested before he gives us a problem. He is obviously overacting and has even surpassed US President George W. Bush in fury and rage against the Arabs. He forgot how indebted the Philippines is to the Arab countries. He seems unaware that the bulk of the billions of dollars remitted annually by the overseas Filipino workers that helps to prop up our economy are earned in Arab countries.

Akbar himself was fed and educated by the Arabs and yet he failed to acknowledge the favors he received from them. How can an ustadz (a person learned in Islam) like him issue such a racist and discriminatory statement? Can he not see that despite the US led-attack against Afghanistan, returning OFWs who have not found jobs in the Philippines are determined to go back to the Arab countries where they found and experienced complete peace and tranquility?

We hope these questions will find logical answers from the governor and somehow open his eyes. He should retract his derogatory and unpalatable statement and apologize to the peace-loving Arabs whom he has unfortunately prejudged.—**USTADZ ABDUL-MUHMIN MUJAHID, provincial board member, District II, Isabela, Basilan**

Religion kills

SOUNDING like cranky Muslim clerics, notable American Christian preachers and evangelists like Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, are excoriating Americans in the wake of Sept. 11's terrorist attacks for taking God out of their lives. These self-proclaimed mouthpieces of God are reminding the American people that the United States is, and always will be, a Christian country.

If this is so, why is the United States now conducting air strikes (with the blessings and encouragement of these evangelists) on Afghanistan in retaliation for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks? Have they not read Matthew 5, 38-44, which intones:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'

"But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

"And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

"If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

"Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Christian evangelists, like their Muslim counterparts, hardly ever practice what they preach.

What Robertson and his ilk pretend not to know and never tell us is that religion kills. The terrorists that caused all those deaths in New York and Washington, D.C., were inspired by and acted according to their religious beliefs. I recall what Ovid, the Roman poet, wrote a long time ago about the most virulent idea ever conceived in the mind of man:

"Reason is resigned
When chained by religion
The tyrant of the mind."—**JAMES LITTON, Litton & Co. Inc., 312 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City**

More hanky-panky in another GSIS deal?

WINSTON Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System, rhetorically asked in an item captioned "GSIS chief hits Alcordo for failed bid": "I don't know why they are interested in this kind of business." ("They" referring to the National Power Corp. and "business" to the GSIS reinsurance mandate under RA 656.)

Uncannily, the answer to Garcia's question is "tartly spelled out" in an editorial that came out the same day in another paper. The editorial said that the GSIS took out reinsurance cover on only $200 million worth of risk from a $10.5 billion Industrial All-Risk Policy and paid reinsurance premiums of $4.9 million, after collecting $13.9 million from the Napocor. The GSIS cannot now account for the discrepancy in risk coverage ($10.5 billion to $200 million) and the missing $8 million premium ($12.9 million the GSIS charged the Napocor less the $4.9 million actually paid to known reinsurers).

Now I know why—Alcordo is interested in the GSIS reinsurance business. He does not want to lose another $8 million.

Now I know, too, why Garcia is desperate about keeping the GSIS reinsurance business to himself.

Incidentally, about the Napocor "running naked," it has in fact been stripped naked by all the disproportionate deductibles and inefficient processing of claims. On top of the $47 million insurance premiums paid over five years, the Napocor has had to shell out over $70 million for repair and rehabilitation of covered damage and loss, because the GSIS has so far paid a measly $1.6 million of the Napocor's insurance claims.

As Sen. Sergio Osmeña III suggested, perhaps the Napocor would be better off managing its own risk, as it has been paying for it anyway. In that case, Alcordo will not be guilty of subsidizing the bloated salary of Garcia.

On second thought, it is not Alcordo but the consumers who are directly subsidizing the GSIS fat cats with padded premiums charged under an oppressive monopoly that distorts power costs. Ultimately, we pay all power costs, including those padded insurance premiums.

I hope Garcia will have the answers when the Senate probe is underway.—**PETE ILAGAN, president, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms, Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Garden Townhomes, Roxas Boulevard cor. Ortigas Street, Pasay City**

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MESSAGES

ALLOW me to impart felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Society for Quality on their **13th National Quality Forum (NQF).**

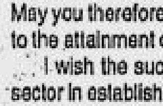
I salute the Philippine Society for Quality, an organization of quality management professionals and practitioners, for its meritorious achievements and unwavering commitment to quality advocacy and in helping our country's business become truly competitive in the global trading arena. This forum with the theme, *"Riding the E-Wave: Quality Beyond 2000,"* is an auspicious venue for the change of ideas and the development of innovative techniques in quality management. It is an important step to our efforts to bolster economic growth and attain sustainable development.

Quality, productivity and excellence in all endeavors, especially in every aspect of our economy, are our keys to success in the 21st century. As improvements continue to fuel global competition, we must rise above mediocrity and consistently be competitive. Through quality management, we will maximize our human and natural resources and produce goods and services that are at par with those in the international market. May you therefore continue to utilize quality management as a means of contributing to the attainment of our development goals.

I wish the success of this forum. My administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundations for sustainable development and attaining the aspirations of the Filipino people for greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and *MABUHAY.*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



WE invite everyone who wishes to make a difference in the performance of their organizations. The 13th National Quality Forum offers you the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in quality management. Armed with this knowledge, you can calibrate the direction of your organization towards performance excellence.

Our invited speakers and selected topics guarantee you a remarkable learning experience.

GERARDO CABOCHAN, JR
President
PSQ

WELCOME to a quality journey to the e-world, a world that is limited only by our imagination and where endless possibilities for the future can be created at warp speed.

Our 13th National Quality forum, with the theme, "Riding on the E-Wave: Quality Beyond 2000," focuses on the crucial role of total quality in hurdling the challenges of a networked economy. In this economy, a customer-driven quality paradigm is the thread that weaves and integrates the needs of people, process, strategies and technology to ensure the survival and growth of our businesses.

This year's conference explores the valuable insights and experiences of a powerhouse group of acclaimed local and international speakers which includes Asia-Pacific Quality Organization President Charles A. Aubrey II, Asian Institute of Management President Roberto F. de Ocampo and Six Sigma expert Dr. Gregory Rahn.

To share best practices and emerging technologies are managing directors and senior executives from global companies such as Intel Phil., Oracle Systems Phil., Citibank N.A., Customer Contact Center (Lopez Group of Companies), SGV-Development Dimensions International, Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting), Neville-Clark Phils., SGS Phil. Inc., TUV Rhineland Phil., and Certification International Phil., Inc.

Are our leaders ready to lead and manage the emerging e-culture, the human side of the global information age, which is the heart and soul of the new economy? How do we manage businesses in an uncertain world? What are the latest management strategies for building customer relationships and achieving performance excellence? These are some of the questions that will be answered during the two-day conference.

Before we rush to the future, let us catch our breath and pause for perspective. As quality advocates, we need to redefine our roles as we make the leap from the industrial age to the information age.

As a wise man once said, "speed is good, but only when wisdom leads the way."

MA. TERESA U. BAGAMAN
PSQ Vice President and Chairperson
13th National Quality Forum

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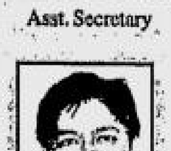

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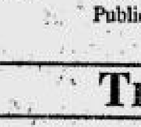

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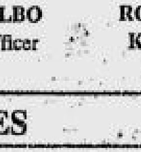

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

October 18, 2001
DAY ONE

8:30 am : Opening Ceremony/Invocation/Philippine National Anthem
Welcome Remarks/Conference Overview
9 am : Keynote Address
9:30 am : Break
: SESSION 1 UNDERSTANDING THE NEW ECONOMY
10 am : Managing Business in the New Economy
: Mr. Roberto F. de Ocampo (President, Asian Institute of Management)
11 am : The Changing Role of Leaders in the Knowledge Economy (CEO Panel)
: Mr. Charles A. Aubrey II (President, Asia Pacific Quality Organization
Director, Quality and Process Management, Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Mr. Robin Martin (General Manager, Intel Philippines
Mr. Bernard Yu (Managing Director, Oracle Business Systems
12 noon : Lunch
1:30 pm : Juran Award Ceremony
: SESSION 2 MANAGING CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS
2 pm : Service Recovery, Bouncing Back
: Ms. Agnes D. Mondeñedo (Vice President and Customer Service Head
Global Corporate and Investment Bank Citibank N.A.
3 pm : Break
3:30 pm : Transforming an In-House Call Center into a Profit Center: The C³ (c-cubed) Story
: Ms. Karen V. Batungbacal (President and Chief Executive Officer, Customer Contact Center (Lopez Group of Companies)
4:30 pm : Integration

October 19, 2001
DAY TWO

8:30 am : Recap of Day 1 (Proceedings)
: SESSION 3 BUILDING E-COMPETENCIES
9 am : Developing an E-Learning Strategy: "The Magic is in the Mix"
: Mr. Victor L. Magdaraog (Vice President, SGV-Development Dimensions International
10 am : Break
10:30 am : Knowledge Management: Managing High Performance Knowledge Workers
: Mr. Jaime C. del Rosario (Country Managing Partner, Accenture, formerly Andersen Consulting)
11:30 am : Open Forum
12 noon : Lunch
1:30 pm : Miguel Unson Award Ceremony
: SESSION 4 ACHIEVING PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE
2 pm : Stream A: All We Need To Know About ISO 9000 version 2000
: Ms. Melba M. Valdez (President, Neville Clark, Philippines)
: Stream B: Managing Transition from ISO 9000 version 1994 to 2000
: Mr. David G. Horlock (President and General Manager, SGS Philippines Inc.
: Mr. Renato V. Navarrete (Managing Director, Certification International Philippines, Inc.
: Mr. Michael W. Jaenecke (Director, TUV Rhineland, Philippines
3 pm : Break
3:30 pm : Six Sigma and its Impact on the Bottom Line
: Dr. Gregory Rahn (President, Trifinity, former Six Sigma Expert from Motorola
4:30 pm : Integration /Awarding Ceremony (Special Award)
4:45 pm : Closing Message
: Post Conference On "Six Sigma" Oct. 22 to 26, 2001. Dr. Gregory Rahn

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

WORKERS using excavation equipment continue to work through the night under floodlights, uncovering hot spots at the still smoldering wreckage of the World Trade Center Oct. 10 in New York. One month after the terrorist attack on the twin towers of the center, burying thousands of people under the rubble, site workers describe progress in terms of tons of wreckage removed. AP

Bin Laden gave Taliban $100M

Washington Post says terrorist also supplied arms

WASHINGTON—Saudi extremist Osama bin Laden has Afghanistan's ruling Taliban in his pocket after having given them $100 million and military assistance, The Washington Post reported Thursday.

Bin Laden "owns and operates" the Taliban, US government sources told the daily, adding that US President George W. Bush and his top advisers recently benefited from intelligence detailing the terror suspect's support of the Taliban.

The money he has been providing, the officials said, does not come from his personal fortune, but from legal and illegal businesses, tribute payments from Islamic countries, businesses and individuals as well as entities disguised as charities.

Bin Laden has also supplied the Taliban with military equipment, training and some of his best fighters to help in their struggle against the Northern Alliance, the officials told the daily.

One of the goals of Washington's drive to freeze assets traceable to Bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network, the officials said, was to drive a wedge between him and the Taliban, the fundamentalist militia controlling Afghanistan.

But while a senior official said there were indications one of Bin Laden's key lieutenants was starting to hurt for money, other sources said the US government did not expect any near-term impact from the effort.

Bin Laden's close relationship with the Taliban, meanwhile, provides him with shelter and protection from US forces.

US officials said Bin Laden changes locations frequently and at times uses an ambulance as cover under the protection of the Taliban militia.

While traveling with an entourage of no more than 25 people, including members of the Taliban, US officials said, Bin Laden uses decoy caravans, switching locations and frequently gathering women and children around him to increase the chance of civilian casualties if the US attacks him.

The officials said the terror suspect often spends the night in mountain caves.

"It's like chasing one particular rabbit in the entire state of West Virginia," one official told the daily.

The officials also said US intelligence agencies believe Bin Laden's videotaped remarks broadcast shortly after the US attack on Afghanistan began on Sunday were made not a few hours but several days earlier.

The tape, they added, was apparently pre-positioned with the Qatar-based al-Jazeera news group with instructions it should not be made public until after the bombings began. *AFP*

Osama pushes drugs through honey shops, says report

WASHINGTON—Top terror suspect Osama bin Laden finances his network of militant operations by smuggling drugs and weapons through a network of shops in the Middle East and Pakistan that sells honey, The New York Times reported Thursday.

The retail shops are run by some of Bin Laden's top associates and junior members of his al-Qaida network, US officials told the daily, noting some of the stores could be added to a list of Bin Laden assets the United States and its allies want frozen around the world.

Yemen, as the home to some of the best honey in the Middle East, is a key location for the honey shops. Many supporters of Bin Laden also live in Yemen, where an attack believed linked to al-Qaida last October on a US naval ship killed 17 servicemen, officials said, also noting the country is the birthplace of Bin Laden's father.

A senior administration official said the honey stores ranked as one of al Qaida's most important business operations, less for the income they generate than for what he called their "operational assistance."

"The smell and consistency of the honey makes it easy to hide weapons and drugs in the shipments. Inspectors don't want to inspect that product. It's too messy," he said.

Bin Laden may have launched his honey operation from Sudan, where he lived from 1991 until his explusion in 1996, the officials said.

The Central Intelligence Agency has investigated Bin Laden's ties to the honey trade for several years, they added, but reported it only in May to the US intelligence community.

Bin Laden has been known to use charities, banks and informal financial networks to move money and operatives from country to country.

The honey trail became more apparent, the officials said, when customs agents in the Middle East within the last year or two began confiscating guns cached in bulk shipments of honey.

Honey companies believed tied to Bin Laden include Al Shifa Honey Press and Al Nur Honey in Yemen, the officials told the daily. *AFP*

Indonesians take to streets in 8 cities

JAKARTA—Thousands of Muslim students and activists took to the streets in eight Indonesian cities on Thursday, the fourth day of protest against US-led air strikes in Afghanistan.

About 800 protesters marched through Jakarta's main square to the heavily guarded US Embassy, where police and demonstrators clashed on previous days.

"US equals United Satan," said one banner. The Embassy was open on Thursday after being closed for three days because of security concerns.

More than 200 protesters also rallied outside the British Embassy.

Police said they had arrested six people for burning US and British flags. It is crime under Indonesian law to destroy foreign flags.

However, Jakarta police spokesperson Lt. Col. Anton Bahrul Alam said there were no plans to arrest Muslim activists who have threatened to round up and expel westerners. The government has condemned the threats.

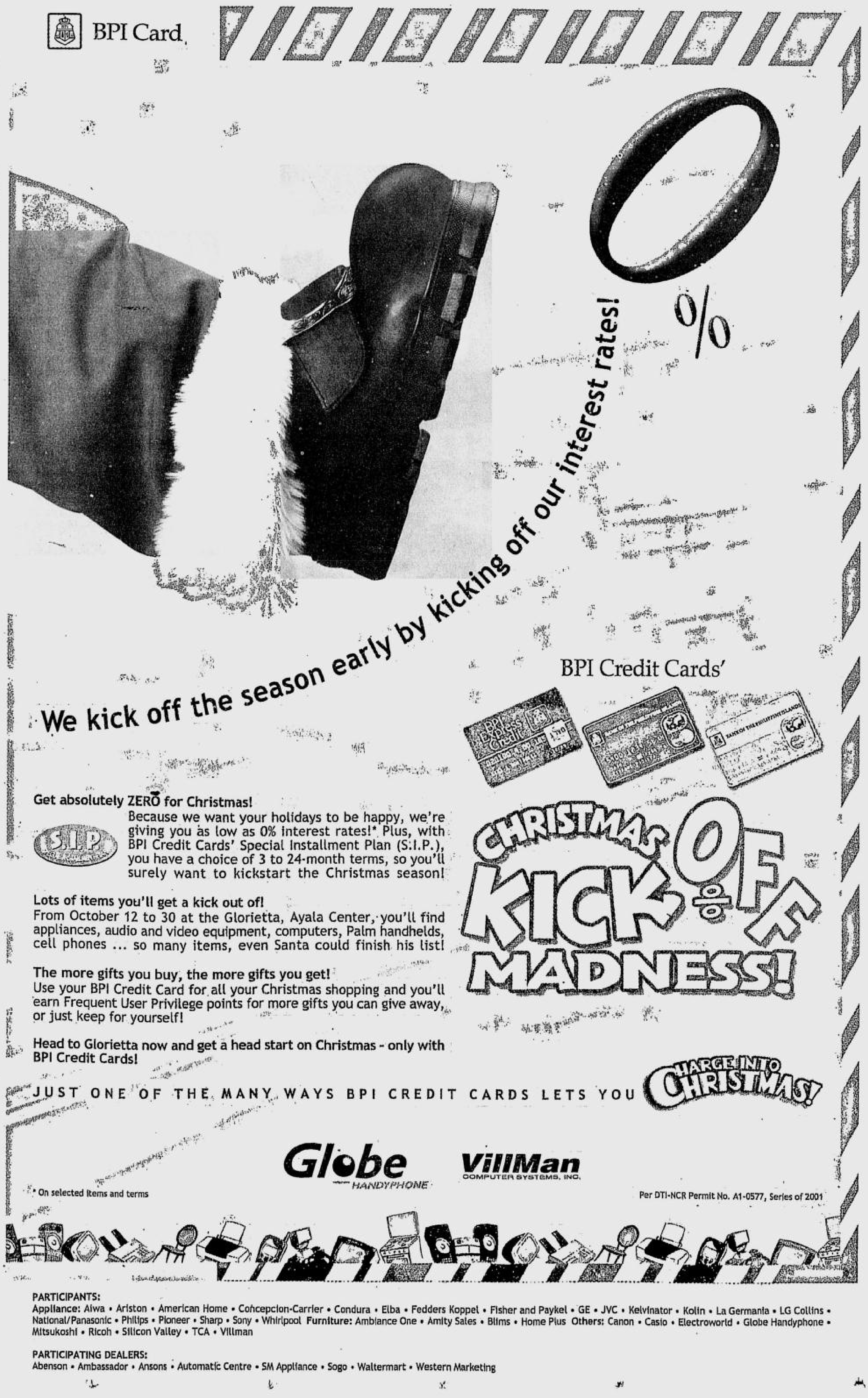
About 90 percent of Indonesia's 210 million people are Muslim, making it the world's most populous Islamic nation. However, the depth of anti-American feeling is unclear. While there has been some violence, most protests have been small and peaceful.

In an analysis released Thursday, the Brussels-based International Consultative Group said radical Islam represents only "a small minority of Indonesians but it has the capacity to mobilize people in the streets."

The Indonesian government, wanting to win back western foreign investment for its crisis-hit economy, has said it supports the US war on terrorism. However, it has also called on Washington to show restraint in its military campaign in Afghanistan.

On Thursday in Palu on the island of Sulawesi, a crowd of more than 3,000 marched in front of a local parliament building. They burned US flags and chanted: "Go to hell America!"

About 500 people also protested outside the Japanese consulate in Makassar also on Sulawesi. In Mataram, on the tourist island of Lombok, about 500 people rallied in front of the local parliament building. *AP*



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Beijing to Seoul: Probe immigrant deaths

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BEIJING—China has demanded South Korean cooperation in the case of 25 of its nationals dumped into the sea by the crew of a South Korea ship after they suffocated in a storage tank, state media said on Thursday.

The victims were among a group of 60 trying to get to South Korea to find work, in a case that sheds new light on the perils of human trafficking out of China, particularly ethnic Koreans from the area bordering hungry North Korea.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi said China wanted "active cooperation" and an "immediate and thorough investigation" into the incident off the southern tip of South Korea earlier this week, the China Daily reported.

It did not elaborate.

Thirty-five survivors, 11 of them ethnic Koreans, were in good condition and being detained, according to police in Yosu port, on the southern tip of the Korean peninsula.

They have said the survivors would be deported after receiving new travel documents from the Chinese Embassy in Seoul.

Yosu police are expected to issue arrest warrants for the South Korean captain and eight crew members on charges of involuntary homicide and abandoning corpses.

They said on Tuesday they were continuing the search for corpses, but it was not clear how many they had recovered.

The ethnic breakdown of the victims also remained unclear but South Korean media reports have said those herded into the storage tank were ethnic Chinese, while ethnic Koreans were put in better, survivable conditions.

The Chinese Embassy in South Korea has sent officials to Yosu to collect information from the survivors, the China Daily said, but gave no details.

South Korea has issued an official apology for the incident, the paper said, citing press reports.

The group began their crossing from the eastern Chinese port of Ningbo on Oct. 1 and switched to the South Korean ship last Saturday.

The ethnic Koreans face harsh living and working conditions at the hands of South Korean employers, activists in South Korea say.

They were hoping to join some 150,000 Korean Chinese who are living and working in South Korea, according to Seoul's estimates.

Ninety percent of them are in South Korea illegally, the government has said.

The case was the deadliest human smuggling case originating in China since 58 from the southeastern province of Fujian suffocated in a tomato truck heading to the British port of Dover from the Netherlands in June, 2000.

A British court jailed the Dutch truck driver, Perry Wacker, for 14 years on charges of manslaughter.

Two lone survivors from that group of 60 told the court they had paid "snakehead" gangs—who charge up to $20,000 to smuggle people out of China—to help them escape to the West for a better life.

Such gangs have also smuggled Chinese to Japan.

European Union officials said in March that China was showing a strong commitment to tackling illegal immigration from southern provinces such as Guangdong and Fujian.

But an increasing number of people are now heading to Europe from the northeast, they said. *Reuters*

IRIS WAS HERE REUTERS

A man walks through the destruction left by Hurricane Iris, Oct. 10 in Placencia, Belize. The Category 4 storm left 18 dead when a boat carrying American scuba divers sank in Big Creek, 80 km south of Belize City.

Palestinians furious at Arafat's police

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Militant Islamic groups and ordinary Palestinians expressed anger Wednesday at Yasser Arafat's police force, saying officers were responsible for the violence that erupted at a demonstration in support of Osama bin Laden.

Palestinians rarely criticize Arafat publicly, and the hostility was directed mostly at police handling of Monday's demonstration-turned-riot at the Islamic University in Gaza City, where two people were killed and dozens injured.

Still, Palestinian sentiment also included jabs at Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which has little to show after encouraging the Palestinian uprising against Israel for the past year.

"There is strong anger against the Palestinian Authority," said Mahmoud Zahar, a leader of the militant Hamas movement.

Hamas does not want to see confrontations with Arafat's Palestinian Authority, said Zahar, who called on Palestinians to focus their anger against Israel and the United States instead. However, he claimed that "the majority of (Palestinian) people are not accepting the (Palestinian Authority) policies nowadays."

Arafat finds himself in a delicate position.

He says he is committed to a ceasefire with Israel and has sought to distance his government from Bin Laden. However, a sizable number of Palestinians want the uprising to continue and also oppose the US air strikes in Afghanistan.

The internal Palestinian fighting on Monday, the worse in years, has added to Arafat's problems.

Police used guns, clubs and tear gas on Monday to battle hundreds of protesters with guns and stones. Most protesters were Hamas supporters.

Arafat—who was in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday and then flew to Athens—has not commented publicly on Monday's clashes.

Police ordered all schools closed and kept foreign journalists from entering the Gaza Strip on Monday and Tuesday. The restrictions were eased Wednesday, with schools reopening and foreign journalists allowed into Gaza.

However, the Islamic University, where most of the protesters came from, remained closed, along with neighboring Al Azhar University.

Palestinian police patrolled the streets of Gaza to maintain order and prevent further demonstrations in support of Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks on Washington and New York.

Palestinian police have arrested about 50 people in the wake of Monday's demonstrations, a Hamas official said. Police were seen arresting protesters throwing stones and firebombs at the scene.

Rioters who smashed shop windows and looted the offices of Palestinian Airlines were also taken into custody, security sources said. The sources confirmed dozens of arrests were made, but did not give a figure.

"After one year of the uprising, the Palestinian Authority has returned to its rule as a police force that defends Israeli security and is directing its fire at the holy warriors in Palestine," said the militant Islamic Jihad.

The group demanded Arafat investigate Monday's shooting and charge those responsible. Among those killed was 13-year-old Abdullah Rifranji, who was a bystander.

"We are so angry and condemn completely the Palestinian police for using live bullets," the boy's uncle, Sami Rifranji, said at a gathering of mourners Wednesday. *AP*

Over 60 percent of African women illiterate–OAU

BRAZZAVILLE—More than 60 percent of African women are illiterate, and discrimination is the cause, an Organization of African Unity (OAU) official said Wednesday.

"The discrimination, of which the women are the victims, concerns access to education," said Julienne Ondziel, rapporteur on women rights for both the OAU and the African Commission on human and people's rights.

"The amount of participation from women in public decision-making is tiny," although they represent more than half the African population, Ondziel told the opening of a consultative meeting of central African nations on a project to draw up an addendum to the African human and peoples rights charter.

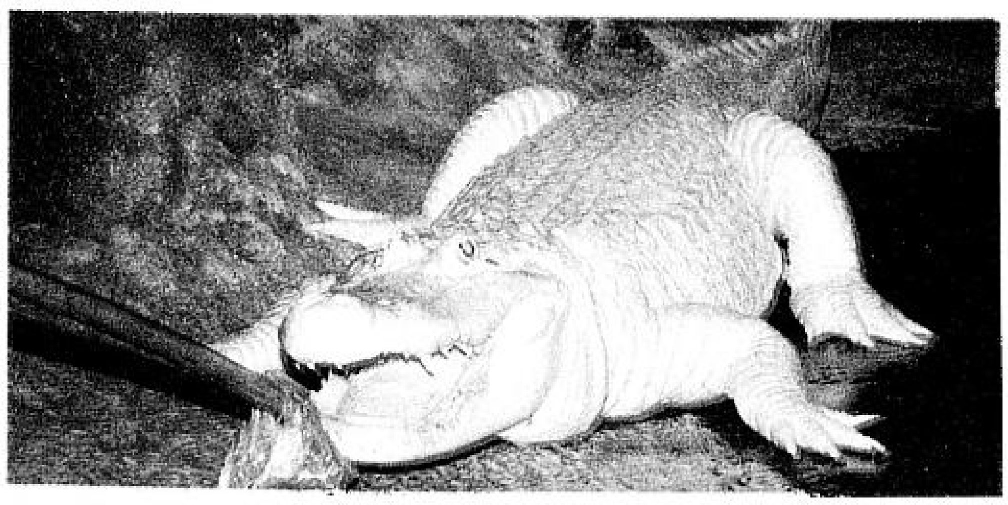
According to Ondziel, civil wars have "reduced African women to a state of extreme poverty."

The African human rights charter was adopted by the OAU in 1981 and ratified by member states five years later.

The consultative exercise, which will continue here until Friday, aims at boosting the charter's defense of African women's rights.

Among those taking part are central African ministers presiding over human rights, social affairs and the promotion of women.

Similar talks will be held in other regions of the continent. *AFP*



WHITE AND RARE AP

A leucistic alligator gets ready to have dinner at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, Sept. 5. Eighteen of these rare creatures hatched on the Louisiana Land & Exploration land in 1987. They are the only known leucistic alligators in the world.

Japanese court rejects Dutch war slaves' claims

TOKYO—A Tokyo high court yesterday rejected claims for compensation by eight Dutch men and women forced to serve as laborers and sex slaves to the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

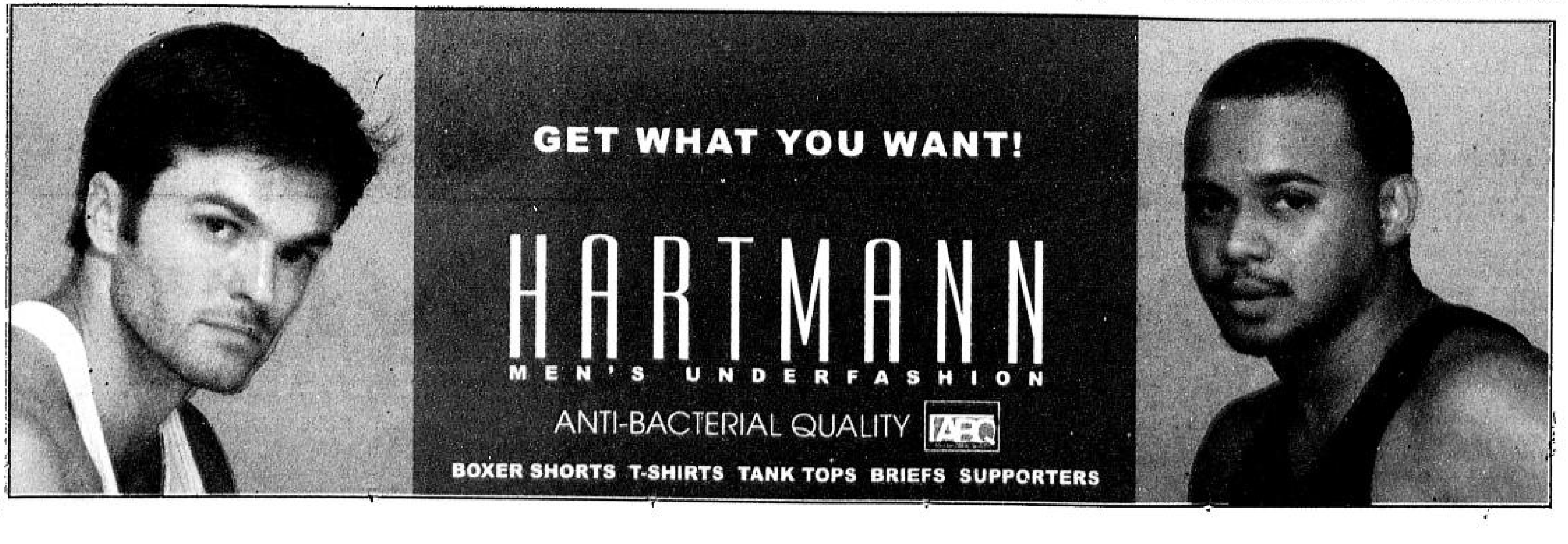
The Tokyo High Court cast out the claims that demanded the Japanese government pay a total of $163,000 in compensation, a court spokesperson said.

The Dutch plaintiffs—forced to serve the Japanese military in Indonesia—argued that under the 1907 Hague Convention IV on the laws and customs of war, an aggressor is liable to pay compensation for any damage inflicted.

But the Tokyo High Court followed a 1998 ruling by the Tokyo District Court, saying the Hague treaty did not give the plaintiffs the right to seek individual compensation.

The eight would appeal to the Supreme Court, Jiji Press news agency said.

Japanese courts have consistently refused to rule in favor of direct compensation, arguing that claims on the state were settled in bilateral peace treaties after the war. *AFP*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Anti-globalization hero wins Nobel Economics

STOCKHOLM—Joseph Stiglitz, a former World Bank chief economist whose renegade views made him an icon of the anti-globalization movement, and two other US economists won the Nobel Prize in Economics Wednesday for analyzing the central role of knowledge in market economics.

"During the 1970s, this year's laureates laid the foundation for a general theory of markets with asymmetric information," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation honoring Stiglitz, George Akerlof and A. Michael Spence.

"The laureates' contributions form the core of modern information economics," it said.

Applications of their work have been abundant, ranging from traditional agricultural markets to modern financial markets, the Academy added.

Thunderbolt

The decision to honor Stiglitz—a former World Bank chief economist best known outside economic circles for his vitriolic attacks on the IMF, the Bank and other global financial institutions—was a symbolic thunderbolt, even if experts underlined his academic achievements.

A former economic adviser to the White House, Stiglitz joined the World Bank in 1996 as chief economist and senior vice president.

But his comments and often outspoken criticisms of the Bretton Woods institutions—the World Bank and International Monetary Fund—regularly placed him at odds with colleagues and the institutions themselves.

He was forced out of the World Bank in November 1999 after openly criticizing the bank's role in stripping debtor nations of assets.

In an article contributed to the New Republic Online in April 2000, Stiglitz said anti-globalization activists were justified in criticizing the IMF.

"I was chief economist at the World Bank from 1996 until last November, during the gravest global economic crisis in a half-century. I saw how the IMF, in tandem with the US Treasury Department, responded. And I was appalled," he wrote.

WB inertia

He criticized the bank's inertia and accused it of "delivering the same medicine to each ailing nation that showed up on its doorstep."

On Wednesday, World Bank chief James Wolfensohn congratulated Stiglitz in a statement, saying he had "made an enormous contribution to economic thinking and we are delighted for him."

"The Nobel Prize is richly deserved," Wolfensohn said.

Stiglitz, who now teaches economics at Columbia University in New York, was honored for research done in the 1970s that complemented earlier work by his co-laureates, Akerlof and Spence.

Stiglitz highlighted the role played by information available to insurance companies on individual policy holders. Together with Michael Rothschild, he showed that the uninformed company could provide incentives to the informed policy seeker to "reveal" risk information through "screening."

Market behavior

He showed that the appearance and behavior of many markets can be changed by the factors of, and solutions for, asymmetric information. His work is applied to unemployment and tax systems.

Earlier, Akerlof, now a 61-year-old economics professor at the University of California at Berkeley, had explained the importance of information on the market in his groundbreaking 1970 essay, "The Market for Lemons." *AFP*

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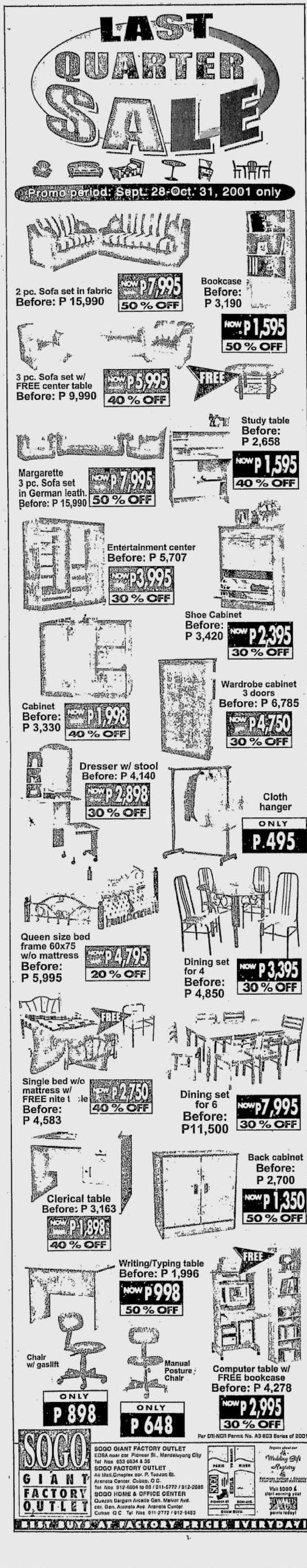
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Transmission tower in Camarines bombed

By JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SOME 30 armed men bombed the transmission tower of a telecommunications company in Barangay Beguito Viejo, Libmanan, Camarines Sur, on Wednesday, according to the police.

The incident happened even as Quezon police authorities placed vital public installations in the province under close watch for possible sabotage operations by communist rebels and other groups out to exploit the situation brought by the anti-terrorism war in Afghanistan.

Supt. Rande Rosero, police intelligence chief of Camarines Sur, said the transmission tower, owned by RCPI-Bayantel, was bombed around 12 noon. It is located in an upland area, about four kilometers from the village center.

It cut off telephone services in Sipocot, Daet, Vinzons and Labo towns.

Rosero said the bomb was detonated in the meter engine of the tower.

Police have yet to identify the perpetrators of the bombing. Rosero said he had dispatched a police team from Libmanan to further investigate the incident.

Guard's account

In a statement, Sandy Abainza, the guard on duty, said the armed men arrived when his family was about to take lunch.

Abainza said the intruders ordered his family to leave the area and to go to a safe place before they bombed the facility.

The guard said he did not leave until the armed men had left. He said he later went down to the barangay security post and reported the incident.

Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, said he had instructed all police stations to conduct extensive security inspections of vital public installations in the province.

"We are not taking things easy," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The province hosts two power plants in Mauban and Pagbilao towns, which supply electricity to Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon. Vital distribution networks of the National Power Corp. are also found elsewhere in the province.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System also pumps water from the Umiray River in General Nakar town to meet the drinking water needs of Metro Manilans.

Rosales said policemen conducted a joint simulated response exercise last week with the private security force of the Pagbilao power plant.

"We also intend to conduct the same security exercise at the Mauban power plant as part of the overall protection measures," he said.

He clarified that the safety measures were not aimed at the Muslim population in the province.

"We already initiated a dialogue with Muslim religious elders. So far, the Muslim groups, especially the Maranaos, have promised that they will not join destabilization efforts in support of Osama bin Laden's call for *jihad* (holy war)," Rosales added.

Bin Laden, alleged mastermind of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington on Sept. 11, and his terrorist network are the subjects of US-led air and military strikes on Afghanistan.

Napocor security

In Mindanao, the Napocor has tightened security in all major power plants and substations amid fears of terrorist attacks.

Napocor spokesperson Rafael Magbanua said the need to further safeguard the firm's vital facilities arose after a series of explosions hit Zamboanga City and Maguindanao on Monday.

Napocor has seven major power plants and about 25 power substations on the island.

Magbanua said soldiers of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion have been deployed to augment the more than 100 Napocor security personnel at the Agus complex in Lanao.

In Northern Mindanao alone, about two dozen soldiers reinforced the security forces of at least four power substations in the region.

Magbanua said Napocor had already drafted a contingency plan in case of a worst-case scenario, such as sabotage operations that would threaten power supply on the island.

The Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co. (Cepalco) also said it had tightened security to ensure continuous supply of power in the city. ***With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Solon warns on 'terror' texting

BACOLOD CITY—Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada (Negros Occidental, 5th district) has joined the call to the almost 10 million cellular phone subscribers in the country to refrain from spreading frightening messages in connection with the ongoing campaign against global terrorism.

Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said cell phone texters should refrain from sending messages that will only fuel fears of possible attacks on the Philippines by terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden.

Irresponsible texting was partly the reason for last week's hysteria that spread following the outbreak of influenza in several private schools in Metro Manila, he noted.

He also cited the irresponsible text message that got two Filipinos in trouble with the Belgian police, resulting in their detention for 12 hours.

The message that led to their arrest was a text joke from the Philippines that said "I was wondering if I could stay with you for a couple of days. Everybody is so angry at me and I really need a friend—yours truly Osama bin Laden."

"The present situation is not something to kid about, especially since governments and the ordinary citizens worldwide are edgy about possible attacks by terrorists. The most that texters can do is to erase or ignore messages they receive that will add to jitters," Lozada said. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WINDOW ENTRY TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A Philippine Military Academy cadet, who was locked out of his room, is forced to pass through the window of his barracks at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City.

4 suspected 'big-time' drug pushers arrested

DAVAO CITY—Police authorities, apparently trying to prove they are better than the vigilantes in curbing the drug problem, announced the arrest of at least four suspects tagged as "big fishes."

The arrests came in the wake of killings during the past days, which are said to be drug-related.

Last week, armed men believed to be members of the shadowy Davao Death Squad and the emerging group, Los Pepes, gunned down at least five suspected drug pushers.

The killings occurred as Mayor Rodrigo Duterte vowed to rid the city of the drug problem.

But during a talk with the media here, the executive said his anti-drug pusher campaign would be anchored on legality and that he does not support vigilantism.

He ordered the police to eradicate the drug problem by December.

On Tuesday afternoon, three "big-time" pushers were arrested in a raid on their safehouse along Camus Street. The suspects were identified as Crispin Baryola and Eddie Perez, both residents of Cotabato City, and Ramolindo Pangcal.

Members of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division, led by Supt. Paterno Orduna, conducted a buy-bust operation to trap the three.

On Monday, a 48-year-old widow was arrested during a buy-bust operation in Puting Lupa, Agdao district.

Duterte told newsmen they would again be in for a big treat as plans to bag another big-time drug pusher is being laid down.

"*May kukunin kaming malaki* (We will get a big fish)," he said. ***Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern section of Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 24° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/12/01

ROUNDUP

3 suspected rebels slain

BAGUIO CITY—Three suspected New People's Army rebels were killed in an encounter with government soldiers in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, on Tuesday. Reports from the Army's 503rd Infantry Brigade based in Abra said the suspected rebels—two men and a woman who remained unidentified at press time—were killed in a 30-minute gun battle at Barangay Baybayading in Salcedo. A soldier, identified only as Corporal Vinluan, was wounded. Soldiers recovered an Armalite rifle and a 9-mm pistol from the encounter site.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bomb explosion in Abra

BAGUIO CITY—A bomb was thrown at the house of Francisco Astudillo, provincial assistant district engineer in Abra's capital town of Bangued early Sunday, police said. No one was reported hurt but the explosion damaged the two-story house and two cars. Police said the windows of the house were shattered, as well as those of the Beloy Dental Clinic at its front.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Blue Light' project

CALAMBA CITY—Police authorities in Laguna and Southern Tagalog on Monday launched the "Blue Light" project to improve the peace and order situation in Laguna. The project involves putting up 200 blue boxes or outposts for police every two kilometers of Laguna's major streets "to drive away criminals and respond to accidents." In a statement, the project proponents said two policemen would man each outpost round-the-clock. Each outpost will be equipped with radio communications gadgets, including three repeater systems in strategic locations, which will interlink all the outposts and police stations.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 cops survive attack

PILAR, Sorsogon—An officer of the Philippine National Police Crime Investigation and Detection Group, a police officer and two civilian agents escaped unhurt from an attack staged by armed men in Barangay Del Rosario here on Sunday. A report reaching Camp Escudero here said that while Insp. Cesar Dalones, PO2 Emerito Zamora and two agents were at the house of a certain Eda Baja, about 15 unidentified men fired at them. The lawmen, however, were able to escape and ride in a passenger bus to Legazpi City, police said.

Emir E. Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dengue fever kills 6

LEGAZPI CITY—At least six people have died of dengue fever while 805 others have been afflicted with the disease in Bicol this year, said Nestor Santiago, Department of Health regional deputy director. DOH records showed that Camarines Sur had the highest number of dengue cases with 511; Albay, 178; Sorsogon, 41; Masbate, 40; Camarines Norte, 32; and Catanduanes, 3. Santiago said the figure was higher than that of last year's 347 cases.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 'extorting' rebels slain

MACABEBE, Pampanga—The regional police reported killing on Thursday four New People's Army rebels allegedly involved in extortion activities in the multibillion-peso fishpond industry in Pampanga and Bulacan. Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, identified two of the slain rebels as Ka Nelson and Ka Rellie. Their two companions, said to be seriously wounded, were presumed dead on Friday after divers failed to find their bodies in the Pampanga River in Barangay San Esteban here. Police said "extortion letters" found in the rebels' bags showed they belonged to the NPA's Bagong Naval ng Bayan.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Kalinga cops on alert

BAGUIO CITY—Police in Kalinga and nearby Mt. Province remain on red alert after 40 fully armed men believed to be New People's Army rebels overran an Army detachment in Pinukpuk, Kalinga, and killed two people last month. Reports from the Cordillera police headquarters in Camp Dangwa, Benguet, said a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit, known only as Cuminga, was killed in the hour-long firefight on Sept. 26. A bird hunter, identified as Marcial Mangwag, was caught in the crossfire and was also killed, reports said.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Nueva Ecija town hall gutted by fire

CABANATUAN CITY—Fire gutted the two-story municipal hall of Jaen town, 19 km southwest of this city, shortly before midnight Wednesday.

A police report received here said the fire started at 11:50 p.m. and was placed under control at 2 a.m. Thursday.

No one was reported hurt, but the fire destroyed the municipal government's vital offices, including the mayor's office.

Also destroyed were the offices of the members of the municipal council, the Commission on Elections, municipal budget officer and municipal auditor.

Spared from the fire were the right and left wings of the municipal hall that house the town's police station and the office of the agrarian reform.

The structure was made of concrete and light materials with galvanized iron roofing. The concrete walls prevented the fire from spreading to both wings of the building.

Investigators said they have yet no witnesses who could say how the fire started.

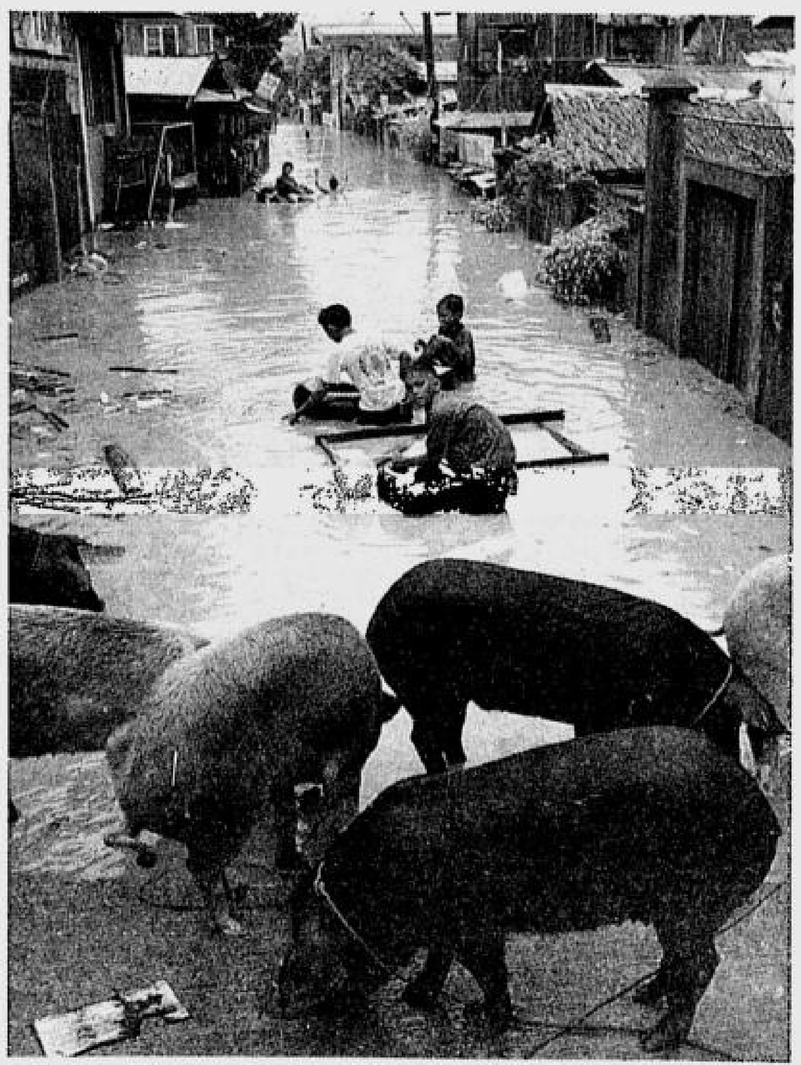
Policemen on duty said they just saw the main building's second floor aflame.

Firemen from the cities of Cabanatuan and Gapan and the towns of San Isidro, San Antonio and Talavera helped put out the fire.

Mayor Cesar Eduardo could not give an estimate of the damage. He ordered the town's police to look into reports that before the fire spread, an explosion was heard inside the hall.

Eduardo said in a radio interview that he and several other town officials had been receiving death threats, warning them that "their stay in their respective posts are numbered."

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk



RESIDENTS bring their animals with them to high ground as flash flood swamp San Jose Goso and other areas in Zamboanga City on Wednesday. VAL HANDUMON

Flash flood kills 5 in Zamboanga City

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Heavy rains have battered this city since Monday, triggering floods that killed at least five people.

The bad weather also forced President Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel her scheduled trip here yesterday.

"Instead of coming here from Bugsok Island in Palawan, she will already proceed to Manila," Roland Detabali, operations chief of the military's Southern Command told the INQUIRER.

Ms Macapagal is supposed to hand medals to at least 16 soldiers wounded during the anti-Abu Sayyaf operations as well as to attend the Zamboanga Hermosa Festival today.

Officials of the Zamboanga International Airport also confirmed the cancellation of incoming and outgoing flights because of poor visibility.

"Our runway is flooded and the navigational safety equipment of the tower has been damaged due to strong rains and winds," an airport official said.

Police authorities reported that three of the fatalities were electrocuted after heavy downpour toppled power lines. The rest were swept by rampaging waters and drowned.

Chief Insp. Antonio Clarito, operations chief of the city police, identified those electrocuted as Ricky Jorolan Falcatan, 19, of Barangay Lunzuran; Nilda Baliajo Sabdullah, 37, of Barangay Baliwasan; and a certain Valbuena of Tetuan village.

Strong current caused by rampaging floodwaters carried away Jesus Macrohon, 47, and his daughter Jennifer, 22, of Little Tondo in Barangay San Roque.

A bridge in Sinunuc village collapsed.

Residents of San Jose Gusu, particularly those living along the riverbanks, were evacuated.

In Cagayan de Oro City, traffic stood still for about five hours on Monday night as floodwater, caused by continued heavy rains inundated major thoroughfares.

For the first time, residents waded in waist-deep flood as the Bitan-ag Creek could no longer absorb the excess water. Councilor Alvin Calingin, chair of the city council's committee on engineering, told the INQUIRER that the flooding could have been caused by the city's defective drainage system.

He said the incident could help firm up the city government's decision to hand over maintenance of the sewerage to a private company.

For the meantime, Calingin said the city government would undertake a massive cleanup of the drainage system. *Julie Alipala-Inot and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Chinese detainees hurt in fire

BAGUIO CITY—A freak fire at the Baguio City jail's kitchen injured two Chinese detainees who were accused in a kidnap-for-ransom case that former undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong claimed was a staged police abduction.

Chung Shiao Tseng, 37, suffered burns on the face and arms, when kerosene spilled on him as he ignited a stove at 6:45 p.m.

Chung was convicted of illegal abduction by a regional trial court judge this year for the January 2000 abduction of Chinese businessmen Jia Xuan Zheng, Liu Yao Wu and Sin Ho.

The three victims were rescued on Jan. 11, 2000 by the Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force, although Ong claimed that the PAOCTF members themselves abducted the three.

Leong Kuan, 48, who was accused with Chung but was later acquitted, suffered minor burns on the arms as he tried to extinguish the flames on Chung's body, said lawyer Edgar Bolcio, city jail warden.

Lawyer Floro Domalsin, the public attorney handling Chung and Leong's case, said the fire struck on the eve of their trial for a separate illegal narcotics case, which arose from the kidnap case.

Both Chung and Leong will stand trial for 11 kilos of shabu, which the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group recovered at a house in Johnbee Village here where PAOCTF rescued Jia, Liu and Sin.

Domalsin said Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, had sought to secure his clients as potential witnesses in an ongoing investigation linking Sen. Panfilo Lacson to organized drug syndicates.

Domalsin said Corpus gave him documents and evidence related to the Baguio kidnapping case. Domalsin is seeking a new trial for Chung and Leong from the Supreme Court.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TRIVIA: Do you know that biological warfare or bio-terrorism is not a 20th century invention? Long before anthrax was mass produced , the Tartars of 13th Century Central Asia have been hurling dead rats across enemy camps and poisoning rivers with carcasses of other animals. They captured almost all of Eurasia but the ensuing plague or "Black Death" killed a third of the entire European population.

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25 NPA rebels attack Agusan police station

By Ma. Kristina Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SAN LUIS, Agusan del Sur—Disguised as soldiers, about 25 members of the Fr. Fránk Navarro Command of the New People's Army swooped down on the police headquarters here and took with them at least 15 firearms of different calibers, ammunitions and assorted equipment.

No police official has commented about the attack that occurred on Oct. 8, but a press statement from the Caraga police office said a policeman, identified as SP01 Atheng Petelan, managed to fire his rifle while the rebels were destroying the lockers where the firearms were placed.

The rebels fled, the statement said, adding that Army soldiers of the 36th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Sigfred Bathan, immediately conducted pursuit operations.

However, a spokesperson of the Fr. Frank Navarro Command, who identified himself as Bagani Dagohoy Bonifacio, said the rebel forces withdrew peacefully and that no shootout occurred.

Bonifacio said it was impossible for the military to immediately conduct pursuit operations because communications equipment were taken by the rebels.

He said the Army only launched such operations three days after the incident, "while the NPA operatives were already safely back in their camps."

Civilian sources, who requested anonymity, supported Bonifacio's claim, insisting that the Police and the Army were really surprised by the attack.

The sources said five of the rebels, clad in civilian clothes and bearing short arms, even jogged their way to the police station and disarmed the guards on duty.

They seized the armory's contents, including the station's Icom radio unit.

They said that around 20 rebels cordoned the area, where the flag ceremony was being held, and pointed their guns at the crowd.

The rebels then disarmed the policemen, including their chief, Insp. Ruben Francisco, according to the sources.

Later, the rebels, accompanied by two police officers, proceeded to raid the undermanned Army detachment situated on a hill near the municipal hall.

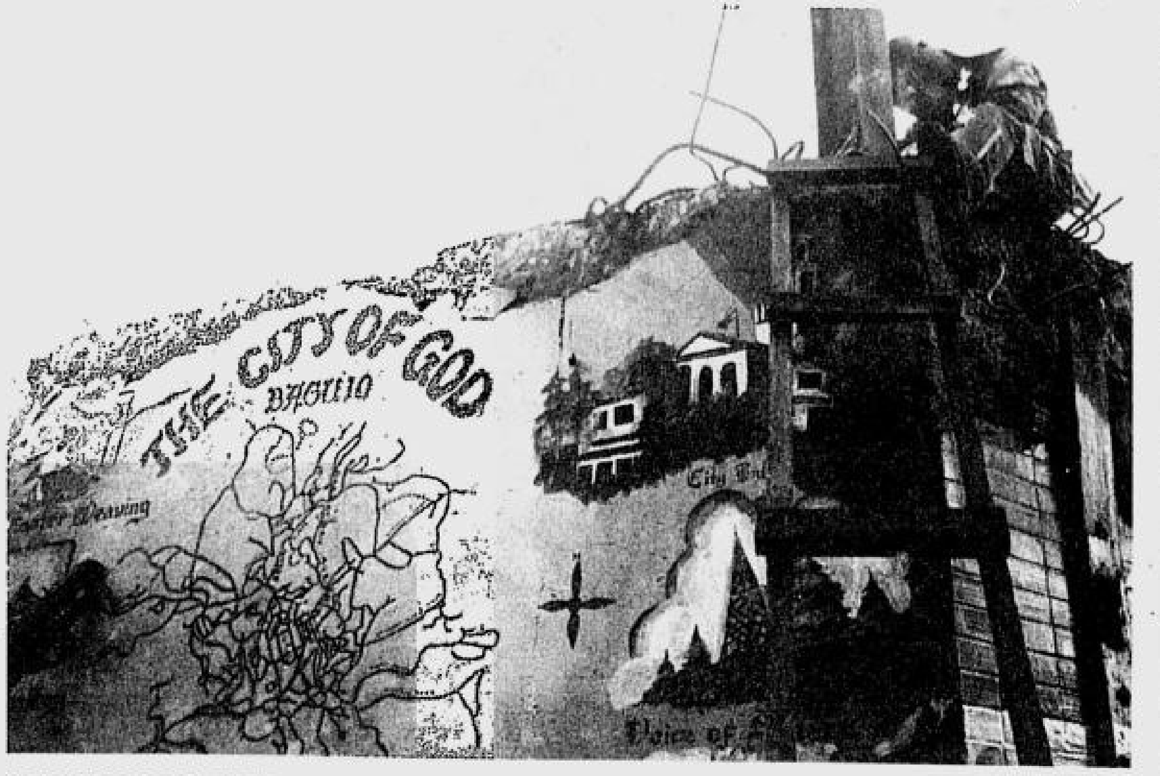
The sources said the attack lasted for about 20 minutes.

One police officer even fainted on the spot, while a rebel held him at gunpoint, the sources claimed.

The police statement did not indicate what firearms were seized.

Linkawas, a publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Caraga, disclosed that the rebels took away nine M-16 rifles, two M-14 rifles, two .45-cal. pistols, a 9-mm pistol, a Canon camera, an Icom radio unit and assorted bullets.

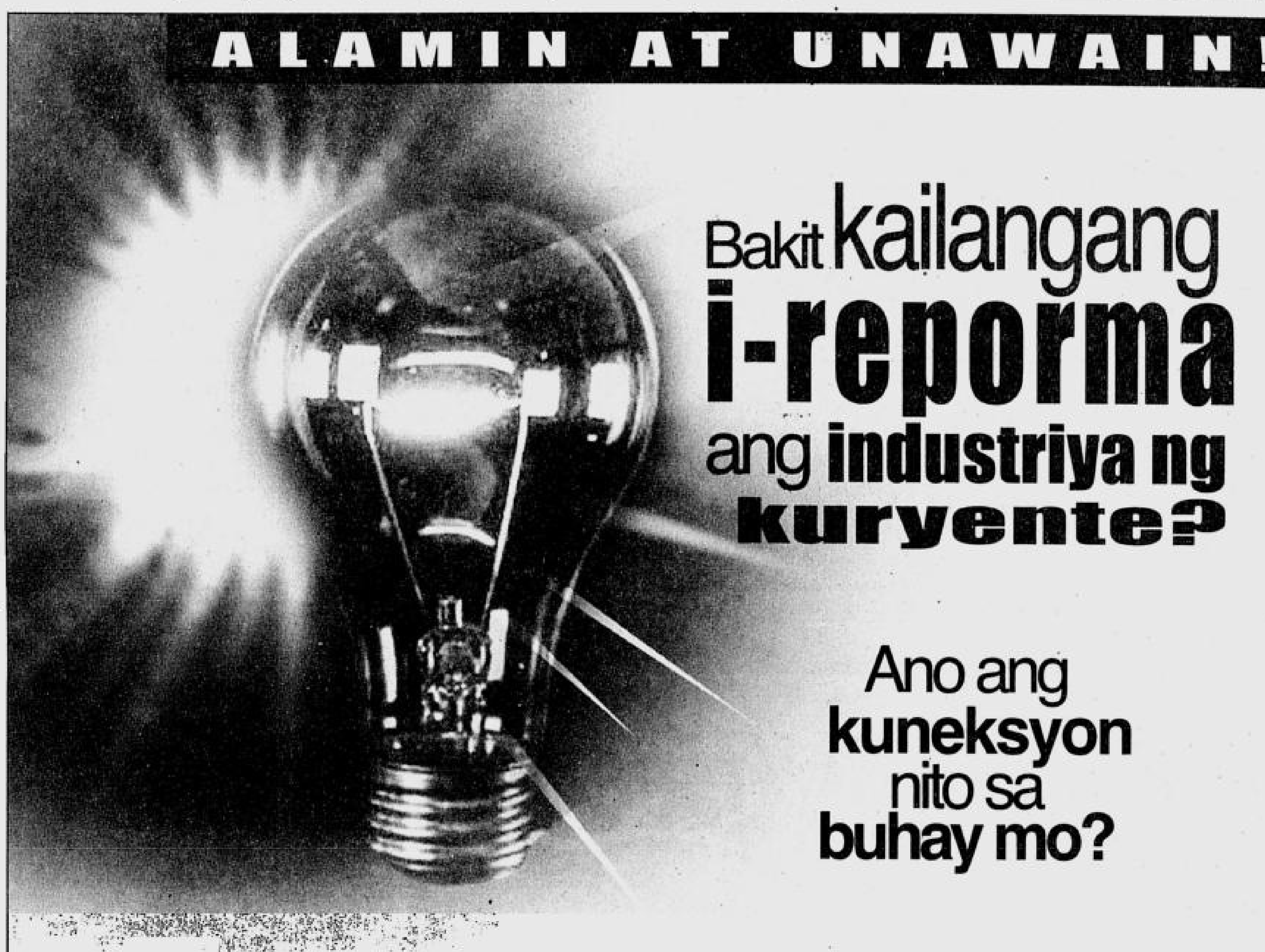
An inventory of the items seized from the Army detachment was still being made, according to Linkawas.



'WAGWAG' CITY

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A welder works on the iron foundations of a "wagwag" (rummage) center that will soon rise on what used to be the Skyworld Condominium along Session Road in Baguio City. A Christian group last year painted a remaining wall and proclaimed Baguio as the "City of God."


ALAMIN AT UNAWAIN!

Bakit kailangang i-reporma ang industriya ng kuryente?

Ano ang kuneksyon nito sa buhay mo?

MAHAL ANG KURYENTE, MAHAL DIN ANG BILIHIN

Mahal ang presyo ng kuryente dito sa atin kaya naman mahal din ang mga bilihin. Ito rin ang dahilan kung bakit hirap na makipagsabayan ang mga industriya natin sa mga taga-ibang bansa.

ANO ANG MAGAGAWA NG EIRA PARA MABAGO ANG GANITONG SITWASYON?

Ang Electric Power Industry Reform Act o EIRA ay naglalayon na baguhin ang istruktura ng power industry dito sa bansa upang magkaroon ng mas mababang presyo at mas magandang serbisyo sa industriya.

Papayagan ang kumpetisyon sa power generation at supply. Mananatiling regulated naman ang transmission at distribution sectors upang proteksyonan ang mga consumers. Sa pamamagitan ng paghahati-hati ng mga planta ng National Power Corporation (Napocor) sa mas maliliit na grupo at sa pag-aalok ng mga ito sa mga pribadong kumpanya, makakaasang mas magkakaroon ng makabuluhang kumpetisyon sa sektor ng elektrisidad.

Makakapili ka maging ng supplier ng kuryente pagdating ng panahon.

MAHALAGA ANG KUMPETISYON

Mahalaga ito dahil ito ang nagsisilbing bala sa inaasahang "price war" na mangyayari sa industriya.

Isang halimbawa ang sektor ng telekomunikasyon na ngayon ay nagpapababaan ng presyo sa mga long distance at overseas calls.

Ganito rin ang naranasan ng mga bansang nagsulong ng reporma sa kanilang mga industriyang pang-elektrisidad.

Kapag bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente, kasunod din nito ang pagbaba ng halaga ng mga pangunahing bilihin.

Noong Hunyo, nagsimula nang magbaba ng 30 sentimos kada KwH ang Napocor sa singil ng kuryente sa mga residential consumers. Ito ay patuloy na ibibigay ng Napocor bawat buwan.

NGUNIT ANG PAGBABAGO AY DI MADALIAN

Ang EIRA ay hindi pangmadalian na solusyon.

Ang pagbabago sa industriya ay nangangailangan ng mahabang proseso. Umabot ng halos pitong taon ang pagre-reporma ng industriya sa telekomunikasyon ngunit ngayon pa lamang natin nararamdaman ang mga benepisyo nito.

LUMAHOK SA PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Bilang paghahanda, ang Department of Energy ay mangunguna sa serye ng public consultations ukol sa Draft Implementing Rules and Regulations ng EIRA. Ang mga public consultations ay gaganapin sa mga sumusunod na lugar at petsa.

Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	Oct. 15 - 16
University of San Carlos, Cebu City	Oct. 16 - 17
RDC III Office, San Fernando, Pampanga (tentative)	Oct. 23
Mindanao State University - IIT, Iligan	Oct. 30

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Evicted families seek relocation in protest rally

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY— Fifteen squatter-families, who were ejected from their homes on Tuesday, held a protest rally in front of City Hall to demand a relocation site.

About 100 protesters and their supporters carried placards and set up tents, threatening to stay until the city officials addressed their demands.

They later dismantled their tents after city officials promised to look into their plight.

Vice Mayor Roberto Ignacio assured the families that they would be provided with a relocation site but asked them to give the city more time.

He said the city government was also giving each of the affected families P6,600 in financial assistance.

The provincial government, on orders of Gov. Vicente Bermejo, also provided sacks of rice and sardines to the ejected families.

The protesters were mostly squatter-families ejected on Friday from a portion of a four-hectare lot owned by Vilma Olano in Sitio Paon.

Olano sued the squatters after they refused to vacate her lot. The squatters reportedly refused to leave the property because there was no relocation site.

Three were seriously injured when a demolition crew, armed with a court order, ejected the squatter-families.

Some residents later blamed Manuel "Bongbong" Aninang, a retired policeman and the brother of Olano, as the one who fired at the protesters.

Aninang was subjected to a paraffin test at the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Iloilo to determine if he had fired a gun. His firearm was also subjected to a ballistic test.

Supt. Ildefonso Catedral, city police chief, said his office has placed Aninang under investigation.

Singson denies involvement in auditor's killing

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY— "What will I gain from it?"

An adamant Luis "Chavit" Singson, former Ilocos Sur governor, on Thursday made this reaction to insinuations, particularly from the group of deposed President Joseph Estrada, that he was involved in the Oct. 4 ambush-slaying of provincial auditor Agustin Chan Jr. and his driver Alex Racacho in Bantay town.

"I have no knowledge of it," Singson told the INQUIRER by telephone after arriving from a vacation in the United States.

"My opinion is that it could be them (Estrada allies) who could be behind the ambush because they have already used him," Singson said.

Estrada had identified Chan as one of his defense witnesses during his aborted Senate impeachment trial.

Chan was involved in the audit of Ilocos Sur's disbursements of its share from tobacco excise tax, although it was Singson who disclosed last year that the money was diverted to Malacañang as part of Estrada's alleged kickbacks.

In Baguio City, Chan's relatives appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to give justice to the killing.

In a statement, they asked authorities "to leave no stone unturned" in solving the murder and arrest the suspects.

"Let not (Chan's) death, which made orphans to four children and a widow to his wife, go to waste by letting the perpetrators escape punishment even as his family continues to bear the tragedy for the rest of their lives," businessman Joseph Rulla, Chan's brother-in-law said.

Ilocos execs close ranks against Yorac

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Top provincial and education officials have closed ranks to defend the participation of the Department of Education here in dictator Ferdinand Marcos' 84th birth and 12th death and anniversary celebrations last month.

The officials were short of condemning Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac, who recently admonished the department for getting involved in the private affair of the Marcos family.

YORAC

As it was in the past, the department dipped its hands into the celebration of Marcos' death anniversary on Sept. 28 by tasking its elementary and high school departments to participate in various competitions meant to honor Marcos' gains during his 20-year presidency.

Persona non grata

Board member Da Vinci Crisostomo said the provincial board was set to draft a resolution either condemning Yorac or declaring her persona non grata for her alleged "adverse remarks" against the department and the Ilocanos.

"We have decided during a caucus that Yorac be declared persona non grata in the province. But it was Gov. (Ferdinand "Bongbong") Marcos (Jr.) who chose to downplay the situation," Crisostomo said.

Quoting Marcos, Crisostomo said "the governor did not want to ride on the issue because it would have meant dignifying Yorac's remarks."

Marcos was quoted to have said there was no need to defend the holding of the affair or to confront Yorac because "everyone knows that there has been no conviction against my father."

The US District Court in Hawaii, however, has found the Marcos estate liable for damages for the 10,000 victims who suffered from torture, death or disappearance under Marcos' martial rule.

Hawaii District Court Judge Manuel Real has ordered the payment of at least $2 billion to human rights victims but the amount was later reduced to $150 million when a compromise between the Marcos heirs and the victims was made.

The claimants, however, have yet to receive a single centavo since the decision was handed down in 1995.

"Let's face it, in any locality, there will always be actions in accordance with their beliefs," Crisostomo said.

Distortions?

"If ever there was any distortion on the historical accounts about Marcos, it was (people like Yorac) who are doing the distortions," he said.

"We will (however) consider Yorac's statements. But this will not diminish the enthusiasm that we have in holding commemorative activities in honor of Marcos."

Yorac, a staunch anti-Marcos critic, did not find it fitting for schoolchildren to be herded in private celebrations, more so in an occasion where the late strongman was being glorified for his supposed achievements as a former president.

Yorac's opinion, however, did not sit well with local officials who said the decision on whether to join the affair rests on the people's personal conviction.

In a statement, Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan, Jr., a Marcos supporter, shot back at Yorac for "(continuing) to hound hapless school teachers and pupils who do not share her unabated bitterness against President Marcos and his family."

"The worst sin is not to interpret history according to our own convictions. It is to impose that interpretation on others who may know as much if not more of history than we do," he said.

No apology

Ablan said he owed Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Rafael Mariano no apology.

Mariano had said Ablan ought to apologize to militant groups that fought the Marcos dictatorship, for allegedly reinventing a hated dictator and revising history.

"Who is he?" Ablan said. "Sadly, Mariano has neither the wisdom nor humility to accept that history is not all he knows it is. And he thinks he is more qualified than us to teach history."

Local educators admitted that there had been no conscious effort on their part to put in the balance Marcos' gains and failures during their discussions of the dictator's 20-year regime.

"The general sentiment among Ilocanos is that in Marcos' 20 years as president, there must have been more good than harm that he left behind," an education official here said.

Asked whether they would now be more deliberate in presenting the positive as well as the negative aspects of Marcos' presidency, the official said: "Unless there is a directive from the national leadership, we will not take the initiative."

Instructions

"We have to get specific instructions that we have to rectify our historical accounts on specific periods of the Marcos presidency before we can adopt them," the official said.

Despite the controversy spawned by the department's voluntary participation in the Marcos Day celebrations, educators and schoolchildren will not refrain from getting involved in the affair in the coming years, the official added.

The provincial government was said to have sought clearance from then President Joseph Estrada in 1998 to declare Sept. 11, the dictator's birthday, as a special working day in Ilocos Norte.

Estrada granted the request in a special proclamation and since 1998, Sept. 11 has been a special working day in the province.

"Until it is repealed by law, Sept. 11 will remain a special day for Ilocanos," Crisostomo said.

CL tourism industry suffers slump

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The tourism industry in Central Luzon, earlier billed as "Abu Sayyaf-free," has experienced a slump following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, but business leaders and government officials are not giving up.

Foreign travelers came not in big teams but in tiny groups, various hotel and restaurant operators told the Inquirer.

DreamTreks.Com, one of the biggest operators of adventure tours in Central Luzon, reported reschedules and cancellations.

Fields Avenue, Angeles City's red light district, did not have the usual deluge of foreign visitors, mostly Europeans and Asians, expected this month, according to Trudes Credo, president of the League of Angeles City Entertainers and Managers.

The Holiday Inn Clark Field inside the Clark Special Economic Zone did not enjoy full occupancy at this time of the year. Local conferences by domestic tourists were the ones infusing the verve.

No figures on tourist arrivals for September were immediately available from the Department of Tourism in Central Luzon, but Regional Director Ronaldo Tiotuico said the observations by industry leaders were reliable.

"They have observed the initial decline but they are still expectant because Central Luzon is generally safe," he said.

However, Tiotuico clarified there was "no dramatic drop yet" because local tourists continue to make Central Luzon a destination for conferences.

Michael Bennet of DreamTreks.Com agreed, saying it was "only to some degree" that the local tourism industry was affected by the Sept. 11 attacks in the US.

The attacks, where thousands of American civilians have died, have caused a pall of gloom, if not shock, Tiotuico said.

"It will pick up in November as it always does," Bennet said, without referring to the US Embassy advisory on the indefinite travel ban in selected Philippine destinations, including the world-famous Mt. Pinatubo.

A US sailor visiting the volcano in June was lost in the area after being attacked by New People's Army rebels.

Foreigners accounted for 17.76 percent or 3,430 of 19,312 tourists recorded in Central Luzon last July, according to DOT reports.

A total of 231,153 tourists, 48,824 of them foreigners, visited the region last year. From January to May this year, visitor arrivals were almost last year's halfway mark.

The October-January period, winter months in other countries, usually saw huge crowds of tourists flocking to the cities of Angeles and Olongapo, mountains and beaches in Bataan and Zambales, and golf courses inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and Clark, DOT reports showed.

But Tiotuico said the industry remained "optimistic" that tourists, whether foreign or not, would "eventually overcome their fear or hesitance."

Security and safety are issues that the industry is addressing, he said.

For example, international terrorism bomb familiarization and identification, securing foreigners in and off campus, crime incidents involving foreigners and counterfeiting of travel documents are among the topics to be discussed in a tourism security and safety seminar here.

The DOT, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Philippine National Police and the Department of Interior and Local Government organized the seminar on Oct. 25 at the Marlim Mansions Hotel in Angeles City.

Leaders of more than 50 recreation establishments and universities in Central Luzon have signed up and many more want to join the seminar, Tiotuico said.

"It is increasingly becoming obvious that the current situation may escalate to unmanageable proportion. We wish to keep those in the tourism industry abreast of the situation and acquainted with tools necessary to avert any untoward incident," he said.

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Third anthrax case reported in Florida

(From page A1)

York and Washington.

Pesquera said that while authorities are not considering the exposure to the deadly bacteria to be terror-related, "we have not ruled out the possibility that this contamination was caused by a criminal act."

Investigators have been looking into the source of anthrax bacteria at the offices of the American Media Inc. that publishes The National Enquirer and other supermarket tabloids.

The third case, a 35-year-old female AMI employee, was being treated with antibiotics that can halt infection in its early stages. Her exposure to the spores had yet to cause her any illness.

Robert Stevens, a 63-year-old photo editor for AMI's Sun tabloid, died on Friday of anthrax.

Ernesto Blanco, a mailroom employee, was hospitalized after testing positive for exposure to the bacterial disease. Blanco hopes to be out of hospital in about a week.

Traces of the bacteria were found on the computer keyboard used by Stevens.

Anthrax is spread by spores and is generally confined to sheep, cattle, horses, goats and pigs. People can contract anthrax through skin contact, by ingesting contaminated meat, or by inhaling it. Anthrax is not transmitted from person to person.

A source close to the FBI investigation said the spores infesting AMI were man-made and possibly produced at an Iowa laboratory. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source said the "unusual characteristics" of the bacteria pointed in that direction, although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have yet to conclusively identify the spores as Ames anthrax, so named for the Iowa town where the laboratory is housed.

Iowa Gov. Tom Vilfack assured citizens that anthrax specimens in his state were secure and state law enforcement agencies had been called to provide extra security.

"(T)here was no confirmation . . . of any connection between Iowa and the activities in Florida," Vilfack said.

Bradley Perkins, a CDC anthrax expert from Atlanta, said laboratories are now "sub-typing the strains" of anthrax that were collected from Stevens, Blanco and Stevens' keyboard.

Perkins said the samples indicated that they could have come from the same source.

Experts say the rare disease can be used as a biological warfare agent. But a senior government health official sought to allay any such fears in the Florida case.

"If this was a massive exposure, there should be lots of people sick. We are not finding that," said Dr. Scott Lillibridge, US Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson's special assistant for bioterrorism.

But AMI's chief executive, David Pecker, contradicted the assessment of authorities.

"I feel that we had a bioterrorist attack here," Pecker told CNN late Wednesday. In Boca Raton, FBI agents in protective gear scoured the sealed-off AMI offices for clues to the source of the anthrax."The three basic questions we as criminal investigators want to answer (are), first, how and where was the bacteria introduced into the building? Secondly, by whom? And thirdly, importantly, why?" said acting US Attorney General Guy Lewis.

The appearance of packets of a mysterious white powder nationwide, including at the US state department in Washington, have fed the frenzy that has prompted Americans to stock up on gas masks, antibiotics and other supplies to guard against a bioterrorist threat.

Packets of the powder have been tested, "but the tests are not conclusive," a state department official said.

Several people in Florida also received an unidentified substance by mail and eight families were put under observation at a hospital near Miami after they received white powder by mail.

"The fear and hysteria is incredible," AMI's Pecker said.

He said retailers have been calling him to report that subscribers were afraid to touch AMI papers because they were afraid they could catch anthrax.

Pharmacists in the Boca Raton area reported far higher-than-usual sales of Cipro, an antibiotic made by Bayer AG used to treat anthrax.

In Washington, the US state department said it had told all US embassies to stock up on ciprofloxacin antibiotic in case of anthrax attacks. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

(For more information on anthrax, read the INQUIRER's Science/Health section on Saturday, Oct. 13.)

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Arab TV raking it in

(From page A1)

flaming anti-American sentiment in the Middle East.

"First we were accused of being financed by Iraq, then we were accused of being financed by Israel's Mossad and now we are being accused of being financed by the Taliban," Ibrahim Helal, Jazeera's editor in chief, told Reuters.

"These accusations are contradictory. They are all wrong. We carry everybody's opinion and we are balanced," he added.

The United States has complained to the Qatari government about Jazeera, hoping it will soften its coverage.

But Qatar's outspoken Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr al-Thani said such a demand would be rejected.

"We have not received any such request, but if it comes it will be strange from a country like the United States from which we have learned lessons in freedom and media. It will be unacceptable to us," he told a news conference in Doha on Wednesday.

$137-million budget

Jazeera is used to pressure, especially from governments in the Arab world, where most of the press is muzzled.

The channel went on air in 1996 with a $137-million budget from Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and has since captivated Arab living rooms with talk shows that often erupt into shouting matches.

That makes Arab governments uncomfortable.

With correspondents in 27 cities, Jazeera has faced at least one lawsuit and has had its offices in at least one Arab country temporarily closed.

Jazeera has had particular problems in Kuwait, where it is often accused of favoring Iraq in news reports—an issue that has embroiled the station in at least one legal dispute.

Buddha footage

The 24-hour channel has come up with several exclusives over the years, including footage of high-profile events such as the Taliban's bombing in May of two ancient giant Buddha sculptures.

Jazeera was also highly competitive in coverage of the Palestinian uprising against Israel.

Bu[illegible]'s latest access to Bin Laden and the Afghanistan conflict has raised the most eyebrows among competitors, who watch in frustration from Pakistan.

That access is due to commercial rather than ideological reasons.

"Our management was clever to open an office in Kabul," Helal said. "One reason to have an office in Kabul is that if you are unique you make money and that is what happened."

Some networks have grabbed some of Jazeera's Bin Laden footage without paying or giving the network credit, raising the possibility of lawsuits, according to industry sources and Jazeera officials.

"The Gulf War was CNN's. A lot of people see this war as Jazeera's," said Rodney Pinder, editor of Reuters Video News. *Reuters*

US gov't cautions TV networks

(From page A1)

Osama bin Laden's message is propaganda, calling on people to kill Americans. At worst, he could be issuing orders to his followers to initiate such attacks."

The move comes days after Bush sought to impose limits on military and intelligence briefings for members of Congress due to concerns about news leaks.

The United States accuses Bin Laden and al-Qaida of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that killed more than 5,500 people, and has launched retaliatory strikes against Afghanistan, where the Saudi-born militant and his closest allies are based.

The White House made its appeal after Qatar's Al Jazeera television aired prerecorded statements by Bin Laden and other al-Qaida officials. The statements were immediately picked up by major networks in the United States and broadcast worldwide.

In his statement, Bin Laden taunted Bush as an "infidel" and said America would not live in peace until Palestinians could do the same. Al-Qaida spokesperson Sulaiman Bu Ghaitha said it was every Muslim's duty to fight against the United States.

Fleischer said these prerecorded messages could be "a signal to terrorists to incite attacks."

Foiled bombing plots

One US official on Wednesday said that since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, authorities had foiled bombing plots aimed at four US embassies.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to identify the locations of the embassies or the plotters.

Intelligence experts took note that he was wearing an American-style camouflage jacket and clearly showing off a big wristwatch as he calmly spoke into a handheld microphone.

The tape was probably prepackaged and waiting to be delivered to the television station when the bombing started. US intelligence agencies such as the CIA and National Security Agency were poring over it to see whether it contained any possible signals to followers, experts said.

Even just the appearance of the videotape on the first day of the bombing could be some type of signal, experts said.

"It was basically a finger in your eye sort of message to the US, that he will be back," said Stanley Bedlington, a former CIA counterterrorism analyst.

Jacket, watch

The camouflage jacket was an insult to the US military, and flashing a big wristwatch showed "that he is not just a guy who has been dropped from a tree or lived in a cave, that he is modern, up-to-date," Bedlington said.

Bin Laden's speech could have included a coded message to followers that had been worked out beforehand through the way he strung words together, he said.

But the overt remarks themselves said Americans could expect some retaliation, Bedlington said. "I think we're in for another attack," he said.

Martin Indyk, a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution and former US ambassador to Israel, told Reuters that broadcasting Bin Laden's messages to the Muslim world could ultimately mean danger for Americans.

"He has a potential to mobilize other extremists to go out and try to kill Americans," Indyk said. "In that sense it is dangerous, yes."

"The danger lies in the broadcasting of this to the Islamic world through al-Jazeera. It's far more dangerous than our press publishing it. That is the audience that he is aiming at," Indyk said.

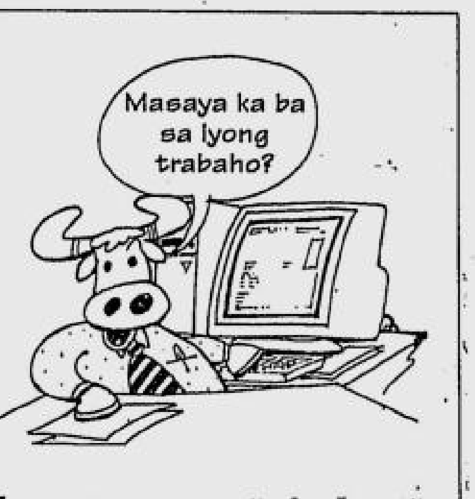
Fleischer denied that Rice's request amounted to censorship.

"This is a request to the media, and the media makes their own decisions," he said, adding that newspapers could be urged to show similar restraint.

In separate statements, US television networks said they agreed to review incoming feeds before airing them, and would use editorial judgment in deciding what to broadcast.

CNN said its policy "is to avoid airing any material that we believe would directly facilitate any terrorists acts."

"In deciding what to air, CNN will consider guidance from appropriate authorities," it said in a statement. *Reuters*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Malacañang defends mediamen it employed

(From page A1)

the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office of funds to pay off journalists.

Rivero also alleged that about 100 members of media or their spouses had been named to various boards in exchange for favorable coverage.

Garchitorena maintained that Mr. Arroyo never called up PMS about any appointment of a media member or for any other action to be taken by her office such as the appropriation of the President's social funds.

"Assuming that they have been good journalists, that their integrity is impeccable and it would depend on them really to draw the line between being part of government and being a mediaman," Tiglao said.

"It would require a lot of razor-edge kind of framework . . . For instance, Ducky Paredes (Malaya columnist) is with the PNOC Exploration but apparently he manages to distinguish his loyalty as corporate guy and his loyalty to his profession. He's also critical (but) on the other end, balanced," he added.

He admitted that this is no easy task as one would have to rely on the corporation and at the same time know when to speak against government.

Garchitorena cited her experience as a member of a non-government office when the media were invited to help them in their communication requirements and provide guidance on how to do it.

"That is one justification certainly for corporations. And even corporations also sometimes invite personalities into their board," she said.

"We're trying not to make it too political. We're trying to put the different skills and the experiences into the board," she added.

Preposterous

In Cebu City, one of those appointed to a "juicy position" by President Macapagal, Cerge Remonde, said Rivero's allegation was "preposterous." He had been named chair of the board of the Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. Rivero had alleged that his appointment was a reward from President Macapagal for being staunchly "pro-GMA."

Press undersecretary prior to his appointment to the government-controlled IBC-13, Remonde declined to comment further on the issue. He also declined to be interviewed.

"It is so preposterous that I don't want it dignified with comment," Remonde said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Remonde was former general manager of the Cebu City-based radio station dyLA, not station owners as earlier reported.

Radio station dyLA is the Visayas Mindanao Confederation of Trade Unions (Vimcontu), which is chaired by lawyer Democrito Mendoza. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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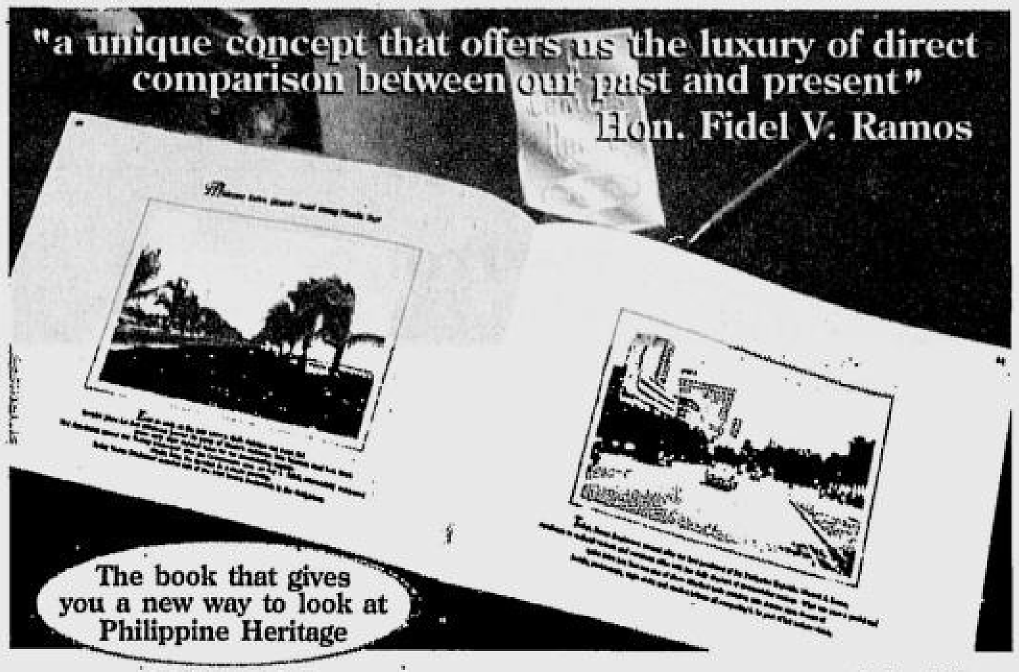

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US to bring war materiel

(From page A1)

descriptions of the role of the US team.

In a statement issued yesterday, Golez was quoted as saying that the US experts were "non-combatants, and their only mission is to train and give advice to Philippine military personnel now engaged in the stepped-up campaign against local terrorists."

Tiglao, however, said at a news briefing that "these are not US advisers in the Vietnam kind of notion."

He added: "This is just a coordinating team that is being sent all over the world on a classified basis. .

"The more accurate term is they are not advisers but a coordinating team set up by the US all over the world where there are (efforts) against international terrorism.

"This group of Americans who will be coming is a coordinating team to coordinate our efforts against terrorism, including the Abu Sayyaf. It won't be directed specifically against the Abu Sayyaf."

New York Times

Tiglao also reiterated Malacañang's objection to a New York Times report suggesting that because of the presence of the Abu Sayyaf, the Philippines could be a likely target of the US-led military campaign against terrorists.

"We'd like to object really to the New York Times article. I guess it kind of became circulated too much, but the article is full of inaccuracies and distortions," he said.

Among the inaccuracies, he said, was the mention of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafy Janjalani as the basis for the group's links to prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden.

"It's a matter of fact that Janjalani was killed in 1998," he said.

Tiglao said another inaccuracy was the newspaper's report that Philippine military intelligence agents arrested two suspected Abu Sayyaf commanders who were described as foreigners.

There were no reports of such arrests, he said.

Lecaros also lamented that the Philippines had been listed among the sources of international terrorism because of the Abu Sayyaf.

"We can hardly be called a state harboring terrorism. We are not coddling (the Abu Sayyaf). In fact we are actively involved in stopping them," he said.

The Palace statement on Golez said he had "confirmed that some American experts would be arriving in the country within the next few weeks to help train Filipinos in covert and overt operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Mindanao."

It quoted Golez as saying that the experts would bring with them "some special equipment or gadgets, like helicopters, that could be lent to the military."

According to the statement, Golez also said the US team would be in close consultation with the Philippine military because the latter knew the terrain and local situation in places where the Abu Sayyaf was operating.

Bayan Muna

At the House, representatives of the party-list group Bayan Muna aired varying reactions to the participation of US military advisers in the government's fight with the Abu Sayyaf.

Rep. Satur Ocampo took the arrival of the US team as a sign that the country was reverting to its 1950s image as a "vassal to the US" at the height of then President Ramon Magsaysay's campaign against the Huks and the communist movement.

But Ocampo's colleague, Rep. Crispin Beltran, posed no opposition and merely cautioned against the Philippines being made to "pay" for the fresh military assistance coming from Washington.

"It must be ensured that (US advisers) are coming here to defeat the Abu Sayyaf once and for all, and not to further convince the Philippine government to provide the US government more assistance in its war of aggression in the Middle East," Beltran said.

He also said the use of US materiel like heavy artillery and high-tech weapons by Filipino troops should not result in a new wave of human rights violations and displacement of civilian populations.

"The people of Basilan have suffered too much and for too long because of the Abu Sayyaf and the military's resounding failure to defeat (the bandits)," he said.

Beltran said the plans that the Philippine military and the US team intended to implement "must not be allowed to contribute further to the misery, death and destruction" in that island province.

But to Ocampo, "the scheduled arrival of more than two dozen US military advisers brings back memories of the Jusmag (Joint US Military Assistance Group) and the 'Ugly American' Col. Edward Landsdale."

Ocampo was referring to President Magsaysay's military adviser who was "reputed to be the real power running the Magsaysay government, especially in the suppression of the Huks and the leftists."

'Anti-terrorist lab'

Activists and members of militant groups protested the coming of the US team.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teodoro Casino said this would make the Philippines an "anti-terrorist laboratory, with Basilan as its mini-Afghanistan."

He said the arrival of the US military advisers was actually meant to "expand the US theater of war to include East Asia."

"Given the track record of the US armed forces, Filipinos may soon be among the collateral damage commonly associated with US overt and covert operations," Casiño said.

Convenors of the Justice not War Coalition expressed fears that with the "pre-positioning" of the US military in the country, a new military accord would not be far behind.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said the arrival of the US team was a "veiled excuse to make our country (the US government's) own operational hub in expanding its anti-terrorist war in Asia."

"Later, it will officially request the reestablishment of its military bases in the country," he warned.

Fortaleza also assailed US authorities for "indiscriminately pointing their fingers at those countries that they think are coddling terrorists."

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya called for Golez's immediate resignation or ouster for saying that the protest actions against the US-led attacks on Afghanistan were part of the terrorist propaganda aimed at breaking down the international coalition against terrorism.

Pamalakaya said Golez was trying to impress the US government that he could take care of its anti-terrorist project in the Philippines.

"If President Macapagal-Arroyo is an American mouthpiece, Mr. Golez is the self-proclaimed town crier of the US war of aggression in Asia," the group said.

It said the purpose of the arrival of US military advisers was to prepare the Philippines as staging ground for possible US attacks on Muslim-dominated countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, where Islamic militants had protested the air strikes on Afghanistan. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Volt Contreras, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christian V. Esguerra***

US warplanes flying over RP

By Carlito Pablo

FLIGHTS over Philippine air space by US bombers and other military aircraft are continuing with the US-led coalition having established air dominance over Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, a B-2 Stealth bomber and a C-5 cargo plane flew over the Philippines from Guam to Diego Garcia island, and a DC-8 transport plane made its way from Malaysia to the US air base in Kadena, Japan.

On Tuesday, a B-1B Stealth bomber, a C-130 and two C-5 cargo planes made overflights from Diego Garcia on their way to Guam.

The Philippine government has allowed overflights as well as the refueling of US and allied aircraft as part of the country's contribution to the war against international terrorism.

"All these flights have been given prior clearance by the Department of Foreign Affairs," said Col. Horacio Lapinid, spokesperson of the Air Force.

Lapinid said that on Oct. 13 and 17, a US C-560 plane is scheduled to land at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for refueling. He did not say where the aircraft would come from or its destination.

Last week, 10 US aircraft made overflights from Guam to Diego Garcia and back.

Six Japanese C-130 cargo planes landed Sunday at the Naia on their way to transport relief goods and supplies to Islamabad, Pakistan.

Last month, three US F-18 fighter jets from Japan refueled at the Benito Ebuen Air Base in Mactan, Cebu, before flying to Guam.

Canadian murdered . . .

(From page A1)

That is the traditional war cry of Islamist extremists.

The victim worked for an American defense company.

Bin Laden's official spokesperson Sulaiman Abu Ghaith is a Kuwaiti who Tuesday broadcast on Tuesday a chilling warning of unending terror and urged Muslims to rise up against the America.

Abu Ghaith's former acquaintances say he was last in Kuwait six weeks ago. Press reports have quoted him as saying that 20 Kuwaitis are members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The security source said Ethier's "wife is doing well today."

"It's still too early to tell. We can't say if it's an isolated incident or related to Afghanistan. But we don't think its personal, since his wife was also shot," he said.

The murder coincided with reports Thursday from Saudi Arabia that a German couple escaped unhurt after a Saudi man threw a Molotov cocktail at their car outside a western housing compound in Riyadh on Tuesday.

The security source, who did not rule out terrorism, told AFP the gunman was on foot when he pulled out a pistol and fired six bullets, three of which instantly killed 36-year-old Luc Ethier.

The other three hit his wife, currently in the intensive care unit at Al-Adan hospital, as they walked through a shopping center in Fahaheel, a seaside town home to many expatriates, 20 km from the capital.

"The gunman is still at large," said the source, who added that witnesses told police they heard the assailant shout "Allahu Akbar" several times as he fled the scene.

"He was wearing trousers and a shirt, but had a 'gutra' (Arab head-dress) wrapped around his head," explained the source, who confirmed that Ethier was a civilian working for the US defense contracting company Dyncorp at Ahmad al-Jaber airbase.

Nicest guy

Asked if he thought the killing could have been personally motivated, a Dyncorp employee said: "He (Ethier) was one of the nicest guys you ever met."

The attack comes amid heightened tension on the Arabian peninsula, the cradle of Islam, where Saudi-born Bin Laden's anti-Western vitriol finds an echo.

The German Embassy advised Germans living in Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest sites, to tighten their personal security.

Saudi officials have said it was too early to speculate on whether a bomb blast on Saturday, which killed an American and another foreigner and injured four others in the eastern Saudi city of Khobar, was related to the terror attacks in the United States.

A US official said the blast appeared to be an "isolated incident."

Al-Qaida's prime demand is the departure of thousands of foreign troops from the Muslim region—about 4,500 US military personnel are based in Kuwait.

US eyes new weapons, new alliances, new fronts

(From page A1)

The shift in tactics helps clear the way for commando raids or the possible use of ground troops.

"I have not ruled out anything, nor has the president," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said.

His options include more air strikes, use of commando raids and coordinated missions with rebel forces fighting the ruling Taliban militia.

Top US commanders around the world have also been asked to think about overt and covert anti-terrorist operations in their areas, a senior defense official said.

President George W. Bush ordered the campaign in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed more than 5,000 people, which the administration blamed on exiled Saudi Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terror network.

Helicopter-borne teams are preparing for the next phase of the war—ground operations, rather than air strikes.

Small teams are expected to infiltrate enemy territory by land or air and hunker down to keep watch on a particular place or area, with the capability of remaining undetected and without the need to be re-supplied for days, weeks, even months.

These specially trained soldiers provide real-time intelligence by clandestine communications from their lairs. Thus they could identify targets for possible air strikes or other raids. They also can seek out and capture individuals.

Base of operations

The aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk is in the Indian Ocean and could provide a base for such forces, although officials said they would also set up a forward base closer to Afghanistan.

They would not say where, but US forces have arrived in Uzbekistan as part of this month's deployments.

About 1,000 members of the Army's 10th Mountain Division are at an air base in Uzbekistan, 140 km from the former Soviet republic's border with Afghanistan.

Although Uzbek leaders have said the soldiers at the base would only participate in humanitarian or search-and-rescue operations, the base also could be a staging area for combat raids.

In Pakistan, government officials confirmed for the first time that US personnel had arrived on the ground, and that the Americans have been granted use of several Pakistani air bases.

More than 15 US military aircraft, including C-130 transport planes, arrived over the past two days at a base at Jacobabad, 500 km northeast of the port city of Karachi.

Small reconnaissance teams of British and American special forces were already inside Afghanistan before this week's air strikes began.

The next deployment is expected to be much larger now that the strikes have paved the way for freer movement of troops.

Northern Alliance

Rebels of the Northern Alliance, which is trying to topple the Taliban regime, have been coordinating military efforts with the US and British special forces already in Afghanistan.

The rebels on Thursday claimed they had taken a key central province after heavy fighting with Taliban forces during the night.

Mohammed Abil, a spokesperson of Northern Alliance, said that Afghanistan's Gur province, including the capital, Chaghcharan, fell to opposition fighters shortly after midnight Thursday.

Heavy fighting continued into the morning in several provincial areas, Abil said.

The Northern Alliance considers the province crucial because of its strategic location. It borders eight provinces—including four that the opposition considers crucial to efforts to unseat the Taliban militia, which controls most of Afghanistan.

The question remains how strong an alliance the Pentagon will form with the anti-Taliban rebels and other dissidents in the country.

"Let there be no doubt," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon briefing this week. "Those elements on the ground—the tribes in the south, the Northern Alliance, elements within Taliban that are against the al-Qaida—we're here encouraging them. We would like to see them succeed."

The rebels want US-led forces to provide air cover for a ground offensive against the Taliban. Rumsfeld didn't rule that out, but other military sources have said the Pentagon does not plan such an operation soon.

More tightlipped

For action beyond Afghanistan, officials have been even more tightlipped than about this first military assault in the anti-terror campaign.

Bush has said he aims to go after terrorists and their sponsors everywhere. The number of countries where terrorists operate has been estimated at between 30 and 60.

But as officials try to keep together a coalition to fight the first battle with Bin Laden, they have tried to play down the prospect of immediate expansion of the war.

Some have been pressing for action sooner rather than later against the long-time US enemy, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Others say something eventually will need to be done about terrorist networks in Malaysia, the Philippines and other parts of Asia.

• At the United Nations, US Ambassador John Negroponte created a stir in the Security Council with the suggestion that the United States might attack other countries in addition to Afghanistan.

In a letter sent the day the air strikes began, Negroponte stressed that the investigation into the Sept. 11 terrorist hijacking of four US passenger jets was in its early stages, and "there is still much we do not know."

"We may find that our self-defense requires further actions with respect to other organizations and other states," Negroponte wrote.

Laser-guided bombs

Although the Pentagon was publicly silent about Wednesday's attacks, officials speaking on condition of anonymity said laser-guided bombs would be used against "leadership targets."

Those include command and control centers believed to be in underground bunkers near Kandahar, the Taliban's seat of power in southern Afghanistan.

A US official speaking on condition of anonymity said Wednesday that two adult male relatives of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar were killed in bombing strikes on the leader's home in Kandahar.

Officials said US warplanes also would begin dropping cluster munitions—anti-personnel bombs that dispense smaller bomblets—on mobile targets such as armored vehicles and troop convoys.

The attacks are meant to help persuade Taliban commanders to switch sides and join the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

In southern and eastern portions of Afghanistan, US intelligence operatives are likely to incite a revolt among those ethnic Pashtun leaders who lost power when the Taliban took over. ***AP***

Colin Powell: No plans yet to hit other countries

(From page A1)

But Powell also said US President George W. Bush's campaign against terrorism was directed at the phenomenon "wherever it may exist in the world."

"We will be persistent, we will be patient, we will be determined, to not only get rid of the al-Qaida network but to deal with terrorism around the world," Powell said.

Powell was speaking outside the state department after talks with North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General George Robertson, who said on Wednesday that Nato would need further evidence before it extended to other target countries its endorsement of the US-led attacks on Afghanistan.

The United States and Britain began the military strikes on Afghanistan on Sunday in response to the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, which killed more than 6,000 people.

The US government has blamed the attacks on al-Qaida, which is based in Afghanistan.

Endorsement

Robertson told a news conference that the Nato endorsement was based on "dealing with those connected with and responsible for the events of Sept. 11."

"If more evidence becomes available of terrorist cells connected to that outrage and identified in other countries and other parts of the world, then obviously it falls into the category of solidarity," he said.

But Robertson also hinted at the possibility of culprits other than Bin Laden and al-Qaida.

"The evidence . . . pointed toward Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida network as being perhaps primarily responsible for those events, but not uniquely responsible," Robertson said.

US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said dozens of potential terrorists in 23 countries had been arrested or detained as part of the anti-terrorist crackdown.

Ten were in Europe, one in East Asia, four in Africa, seven in the Near East-Middle East area, and one in Latin America.

One US official said the Pentagon was developing a list of potential targets beyond Afghanistan, where Bin Laden's associates live.

Further action

The United States told the United Nations on Sunday that its self-defense might require "further action with respect to other organizations and other states."

US officials tried to play down the significance of the threat but, against the background of a debate with the Bush administration, it aroused some suspicions abroad.

Many US conservatives favor extending the campaign to Iraq, even without evidence of a link with Bin Laden, on the grounds that now is a good opportunity to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, who survived the Gulf War of 1991.

But an attack on Iraq will bring an end to Arab cooperation with the US campaign in Afghanistan, analysts say. That cooperation, though limited in practice, is important to prevent the impression of a wholly Western campaign against al-Qaida.

Powell welcomed the resolutions drawn up at a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) held on Wednesday in the Qatari capital of Doha.

"They deplored what happened on Sept. 11, indicated this is not the kind of behavior they would find favorable. This doesn't reflect the faith that they all believe in," he said.

The OIC, the world's largest Islamic body, expressed concern at the prospect of civilian casualties in Afghanistan but avoided condemning the US-led strikes against the Taliban rulers sheltering Bin Laden.

The 56-nation organization also rejected the targeting of any Arab state under the pretext of combating terrorism, and rejected aggression against any Islamic state—a phrase seen by delegates as referring to attacks on Afghan civilians rather than on alleged terrorists or the Taliban.

"When one considers the kind of statement that might have come out, I think it was a pretty good, a pretty fair, statement," Powell said.

Transnational crime

In Singapore, senior law enforcement officials from Southeast Asia were urged at a meeting yesterday to join forces to fight the rising threats of terrorism, piracy and other cross-border crimes in the region.

Southeast Asian countries should exchange more information and intelligence in a bid to combat terrorism, said Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

"Terrorist networks extend across many countries, and we too are at risk," Lee said at an Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference on transnational crime.

Pirate attacks are also on the rise in the Asean region, Lee said in an opening speech at the conference.

Out of 470 pirate attacks reported worldwide last year, 190 occurred either in Indonesia or the Straits of Malacca, he said.

The Straits of Malacca are vital shipping lanes off the coasts of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Lee also warned of rising law enforcement problems from Internet "cybercrime."

"Cyberspace is increasingly being used for criminal activities such as illegal drug transactions and money laundering," he said. "Cyber-attacks against corporations and businesses have also become more widespread."

Interior ministers, heads of police forces and other law enforcement officials from the 10 Asean member-countries were at the one-day, closed-door conference, held under tight security at a Singapore hotel.

They were expected to discuss action plans for the regional grouping to tackle cross-border crimes.

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are the members of Asean. ***Reports from Reuters, AP***

US to ship weapons, aircraft to RP for drive vs terrorists

By Rocky Nazareno

THE US government will soon ship to the country weapons and aircraft in connection with its campaign against terrorism.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense, yesterday said the US-led campaign had sped up the delivery of military equipment to the Philippines under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement and other aid from the Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag).

"This is already expected because, after all, the Philippines has assumed an up-front role in the fight against terrorism," he told the Inquirer.

According to Pichay, deliveries are expected to start as early as this month.

He said 30,000 upgraded M-16 armalite rifles, five upgraded Huey helicopters and two C-130 aircraft were expected to arrive "within the next 90 days."

He added that 300 M35 trucks were delivered last August, and that a point-class cutter had been turned over to the Philippine Navy although this had yet to be commissioned.

Pichay said that for this year, US military aid would amount to $1.99 million and would multiply tenfold next year to $19 million.

"However, I believe that when President Macapagal-Arroyo visits the US in November, she will be able to get more military assistance, especially because of the war against international terrorism," he said, adding:

"I will not be surprised if the US government sends operatives to help in our own war . . . against the Abu Sayyaf."

The Surigao del Sur congressman noted that, aside from Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, which is holding Americans as prisoners for allegedly preaching Christianity in the Muslim country, "the Abu Sayyaf is the only group in the world which is now holding American hostages."

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham, whom it abducted in a hostage-taking binge at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27.

Pichay said that with the Abu Sayyaf linked to prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden, "the US government may even send more arms and other military equipment than stipulated in the VFA."

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Futch, one of boxing's greats, dies at 90

FUTCH (left) with Joe Frazier in this photo circa 1974. AP

LAS VEGAS—Eddie Futch, an amateur sparring partner for Joe Louis who went on to train 20 world champions as one of boxing's greatest teachers, has died. He was 90.

Futch, who retired four years ago yet was still one of the sport's most recognizable figures, died Wednesday morning, according to the Clark County coroner's office.

Futch, who turned 90 on Aug. 9, trained five heavyweight champions—Larry Holmes, Joe Frazier, Riddick Bowe, Michael Spinks and Trevor Berbick.

Other champions Futch worked with during his Hall of Fame career included light heavyweights Bob Foster and Montell Griffin, junior middleweight Mike McCallum, lightweight Alexis Arguello and welterweights Don Jordan (his first champion in 1959) and Marlon Starling.

A Golden Gloves lightweight champion who never turned pro, Futch sparred with Louis when both were amateurs working out at the same Detroit gym in the early 1930s.

It was the "Thrilla' in Manila," the third fight between Frazier and Muhammad Ali, that brought Futch to the attention of the general public.

After the 14th round of the grueling fight, Futch told Frazier he was stopping it because Smokin' Joe was hardly able to see.

Although by then Ali had the fight won on the three official scorecards, Futch had no way of knowing that.

"I thought, 'He's a good father and I want him to see his kids grow up,'" Futch recalled.

It was after the fight that Futch gave Angelo Dundee the greatest compliment Ali's trainer said he ever received.

"Eddie said, 'Muhammad Ali looked like he was going to get out of there after the 11th round, and Angelo presumed himself on him not to,'" Dundee recalled this summer.

One of the best examples of Futch's dealing with his fighters came when Starling, a champion from 1987-90, was acting balky during a training session. *AP*

Batangas targets share of top spot

THEIR win streak over, the LBC Batangas Blades are now focusing on regaining the lead in the MBA Second Phase.

Before that, however, the Blades must first try to get back on track when they tackle the TPG Davao Eagles at 3 p.m. today at the RMC Gym in Davao.

Derailed by Andok's San Juan, 86-82, Sunday night, LBC Batangas wants to start its southern swing with a win that would put it on level with its conqueror.

FedEx Laguna also tries to recover lost ground against Nueva Ecija at 5:30 p.m. at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The Lakers are having a roller-coaster ride this conference, deadly in some games and lackluster in some.

Decidedly stronger than the Patriots, however, the Lakers should be able to prevail, especially before the hometown crowd.

The Blades are seeking their sixth win in seven starts that would put them back on top with the Knights, who downed the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 91-73, last Wednesday.

With their star-studded roster, the Blades are slightly favored over the cellar-dwelling Eagles (0-4).

Last year's MVP Romel Adducul is again expected to rule the boards against the smaller Eagles, none of whom stands over 6-foot-5.

Other Blades to be counted upon by coach Nash Racela are Alex Compton, Eddie Laure, Peter Martin, Tonyboy Espinosa, Jeffrey Sanders and Ralph Rivera.
Roy Luarca

GAMES TODAY
RMC Gym
3:00 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Davao
San Luis Sports Complex (Sta. Cruz)
5:30 p.m. –Nueva Ecija vs FedEx Laguna

Second Phase Standings	W	L
Northern Conference		
Andok's San Juan	6	1
LBC Batangas	5	1
FedEx Laguna	3	3
Nueva Ecija	2	4
Southern Conference		
Negros	4	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	3	4
Socsargen-Taguig	1	6
Davao	0	4

Jordan to play vs Detroit

WILMINGTON, North Carolina — Ready or not, Michael Jordan will make his Washington Wizards debut on Thursday night against the Detroit Pistons.

A few hours after he said he would not play in the first two exhibition games, Jordan changed his mind because he did not want to disappoint thousands of fans who had already bought tickets in Detroit and Miami.

"After I made my first announcement earlier today, I realized that many fans purchased tickets to these games to see me in my return," Jordan said in a statement released Wednesday by the Wizards.

"I didn't want the fans to be disappointed, therefore I am altering my original plan and will play in Detroit and Miami," he said. Jordan is expected to start both games, but his minutes will be limited, said Wizards spokesman Nick Brown. *AP*

Santos snares scooter plum

CARMONA, Cavite—R.B. Santos of ECM Racing Team underscored his reputation as one of the brightest new stars in the local circuit, ruling the recent fourth leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

Hardly affected by the long three-month break, Santos dominated the Yamaha-sponsored 50cc category to keep the lead in the overall standings in this annual series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and sponsored by Shell Advance.

The 16-year-old pride of Malabon, who trained extensively under multi-titled rider Jolet Jao, outduelled his closest rivals who included Robert Altea, Hernie Andrea and Eric Ramos.

"*Talagang pinilit kong manalo* muli," said Santos, who also finished second to Ivan Santiago in the 50cc multi-brand category.

"*Kahit na walang karera, tuloy naman ang ensayo ko kaya hindi ako nahirapan na mag*-adjust," added Santos, who is way ahead in the overall standings with only three legs remaining.

Overshadowed by Santos' impressive showing was Gilbert Maningas, who completed a double celebration by winning both the expert open and 90cc categories.

Maningas upstaged Sonny Villarama, Jao, Mark Chua and Randy Ortiz in the centerpiece expert open category.

Maningas rode steadily despite the presence of his more-experienced rivals and emerged as the surprise winner in the one-day competition.

A big disappointment was three-time winner Jaime Barcial, who failed to finish the second race and did not count.

Maningas completed a twin kill by also winning the 90cc class over Chua, Villarama, Lucky Loya and Winston Flores.

The fifth leg is scheduled on Oct. 28.

John Hay, Baguio CC to host scribes

BEDI

A SPECIAL Fil-Am Media tournament for the members of the Philippine Sportswriters Association has been set for Oct. 20 and 21 in the scenic and challenging courses of Camp John Hay Golf Club and Baguio Country Club in Baguio City.

Fil-Am overall committee coordinator Shean Bedi and BCC deputy general manager Anthony de Leon said the event is part of the pre-tournament activities before the staging of the 52nd edition of the Fil-Am men's international golf tournament slated on Dec. 3 to 8.

"This tournament will give the members of the media first hand information of the Fil-Am event and experience the famous hospitality that Fil-Am is known for," Bedi said.

The 18-hole, par 69, Jack Nicklaus-designed championship golf course of CJH, dubbed as the Augusta National of the Philippines, is currently undergoing minor repairs for maximum playability for the Fil-Am event.

"Our dear sportswriters shouldn't worry though," said Bedi. "It will be ready in time for the media tournament."

Coseteng wins third 'Driver of the Year'

MULTI-TITLED Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-Caltex-Eclipse Team Tom's added another feather to his cap, winning this year's Philippine National Touring Car Championship and bagging the prestigious "Driver of the Year" award for the third straight year at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Flaunting anew the form that made him the country's leading competitive driver for the past several years, Coseteng defeated actor-sportsman Jomari Yllana of Red Horse-Caltex-Eclipse-Team Tom's and Nilo Pazcoguin of Caltex-Team Tom's in one of two season-ending races to capture the overall title in this 12-part series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA).

"I'm very, very happy. It's really a very memorable year for me, and I would like to share this victory with my teammates and the staff," said Coseteng, who clocked 32 minutes and 50.495 seconds in winning the action-packed 11th round at the sprawling 2.8-kilometer race course.

Overall, Coseteng dominated seven of 12 races held in Batangas and Subic this year to finish with a runaway total of 139 points based on the 15-12-10-8-6 scoring system in this prestigious series presented by Shell, Toyota, Kilton Motors, Norkis-Yamaha; MOF Company and Marlboro and sponsored by Casino Filipino, Llumar, CGU Insurance, Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

Pazcoguin is a far second overall with 100 points, while Yllana wound up third with 95 points and Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA came in fourth with 84 points.

Rounding out the top 10 drivers this year were Mike Potenciano of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo Potenciano, Louie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, Ferdie Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery, Ricardo Loi of La OperaAgip-GNC and Mike Aguilar of Caltex.

Oakland defeats New York

NEW YORK—Mark Mulder, showing no nerves in his first postseason appearance, held the New York Yankees to one run to lead the Oakland Athletics to a 5-3 win over the World Series champions in the opener of their first-round American League series.

Terrence Long hit two home runs and Jason Giambi also homered for the A's, who beat Roger Clemens in Game 1 of a best-of-five series for the second consecutive year.

Game 2 is Thursday with Andy Pettitte (15-10) pitching for New York against Tim Hudson (18-9).

In the Wednesday's National League playoffs, Atlanta beat Houston, 1-0, to take a 2-0 lead in its series, while St. Louis beat Arizona, 4-1, to tie its series 1-1.

In Houston, Tom Glavine pitched eight sharp innings as Atlanta capitalized on another misplay by Julio Lugo to claim a victory over the Astros and take a 2-0 lead in their NL first round series.

There was tight security and an increased police presence at Yankee Stadium in response to last month's terrorist attacks. But nothing could keep the 56,697 fans away as New York began its run for a fourth World Series title.

After nearly ending New York's run last season, the wild card A's used two elements that were missing a year ago: a healthy Mulder and Johnny Damon's speed. *AP*

Master's Challenge slated tomorrow

THE TAMIYA Manila 4WD Master's Challenge heats off tomorrow at the Trax located at the fourth level of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

A purse of P35,000 will be given away in the three-event tournament sponsored by GameworX-Trax and supported by Tamiya-Manila under the auspices of the Philippine Mini-4WD League.

The Open race main event offers P16,000 to the winner while the first runner-up and second runner-up will receive P5,000 and P3,000, respectively. Other events included are the 5-Lane Speed race and the fastest time race. Entry fees for the Open race is P60.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo won top honors in the 16th Kuala Lumpur International Open Masters. Also today in 1992, Roger Antonio shot a six-over-par 76 to post a two-stroke victory over Danny delos Santos in the Philip Morris Golf Classic at the Negros Occidental Golf Club course.

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Race 3—1. Prince Ron Ron 2. Prickly Heat 3. Gangway 4. Vin Vin 5. Master Strategist
Race 4—1. Ahoy There 2. Gifted Angel 3. Ceasar's Inn 4. The King
Race 5—1. I Dare You 2. Naughty 3. Lovely Luigi 4. Danielle's Angel
Race 6—1. Go Johnny Go 2. Turbo Carera 3. Enseguida 4. Musical Owl 5. Nagniningning
Race 7—1. Rosa Valentina 2. Diana 3. Queen of Less 4. Boogie Shoes 5. Nag-iisang Ikaw 6. Ticket to Fame
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POOL: World Pool Masters 2001 at 6 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: NBA Inside Stuff at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Kasparov tops Milo Checkmate

TEAM Kasparov collected eight wins from National Master Carlos Cabueños in the third and final round to rule the Milo Checkmate Future Masters vs Masters simul-clock team tournament held recently at Greenhills Center. Enrollment for the sixth series starts on Oct. 20. For details, call 825-8560. Kasparov's No. 1 bet Gabby Layugan with teammates Rommelle delos Santos, Jaroz Felipe, Emmanuel Eumir Songcuya II, John Robin Buenavista, Mark Tañamor, Andrew Delfin and Rowell Dancal provided the needed points to bag the title.

Talk N Text seeks 6th win vs Ginebra

Standings	W	L
Sta. Lucia	6	1
Talk N Text	5	2
Shell	4	2
Pop Cola	4	3
Ginebra	3	3
Purefoods	3	4
Red Bull	2	4
San Miguel	2	4
Alaska	2	5
Tanduay	2	5

Wednesday's results

Tanduay d. Purefoods, 114-89Alaska d. Red Bull, 86-81

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
5:05 p.m.—Pop Cola vs San Miguel
7:10 p.m.—Ginebra vs Talk N Text

TALK N Text tries to firm up its hold of solo second spot today when it goes up against Barangay Ginebra in the PBA Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

They clash at 7:10 p.m. after the 5:05 p.m. encounter between Pop Cola and San Miguel Beer.

Pop Cola and San Miguel Beer have one thing in common: they both fell victims to the rampaging Shell Turbo Chargers last week.

But while the Panthers are enjoying the luxury of a healthy lineup, the Beermen will continue to hope for the return of a missing piece in their once fearsome offensive artillery.

The Beermen will miss Danny Seigle for the fifth time tonight.

As the only squad which dealt Sta. Lucia Realty's first setback with an 81-80 win, the Phone Pals are expected to radiate confidence in order to improve their 5-2 record.

The Realtors are still the pacesetters at 6-1, having won six straight before Asi Taulava's triple some days back in the dying seconds erased their dreams of sweeping the eliminations.

Seigle's loss due to back spasms proved catastrophic for the Beermen, who are trying to find means to arrest their four-game skid. San Miguel's last defeat was a 95-85 decision against the Turbo Chargers.

The Beermen, mired at 2-4, have not experienced a five-game losing skein since the 1986 Open Conference.

Pop Cola is raring to avenge a 90-83 setback against the Turbo Chargers and will utilize the full might of its injury-free lineup to get back on the winning track.

Old warrior Jojo Lastimosa will again pinch in some quality minutes for the Panthers before Johnny Abarrientos takes over the house-cleaning chores. They are expected to get help from Roselle Ellis, Poch Juinio and Estong Ballesteros.

It was a trick done by the Panthers before the Turbo Chargers snapped their four-game roll that had them settling at solo fourth for a 4-3, win-loss slate.

The Kings are aspiring to reach that slate tonight despite coming off from an ego-deflating 121-118 overtime loss to the Realtors a week ago.

With Alex Crisano injured, Banjo Calpito, Jun Limpot and Wilmer Ong should complement with the Kings' flashy backcourt starring Mark Caguioa, Jay Jay Helterbrand, Vergel Meneses and Bal David.

N. Dame football champion

COTABATO CITY—Notre Dame for Boys blanked Notre Dame Village, 3-0, Wednesday to retain the Cotabato City Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football title at the Notre Dame University turf here.

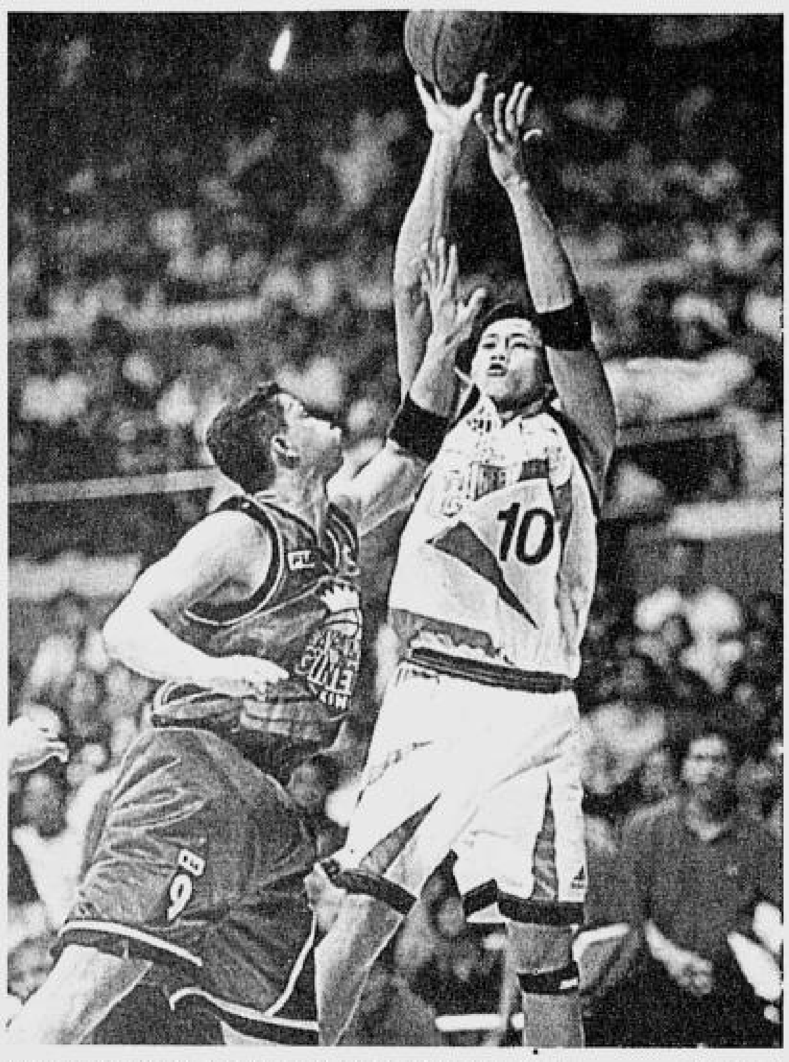
Ryan Paredes scored in the 19th and 36th minutes to give Notre Dame for Boys a spot in the all-Cotabato sub-regional-finals set Nov. 6-7 at the M'Lang National High field in North Cotabato.

Nasheden Iman tallied the other marker.

In another match, Cotabato City Main High nipped Laboratory High, 1-0, to clinch third spot.

In Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Sur School of Arts and Trade nosed out Bauygan National High, 3-2, to rule the first Agusan del Sur Coke Go-for-goal eliminations.

The champions blasted Mahgaya National High, 6-0, while Bayugan trimmed Trento High, 3-2, to arrange the title showdown.



ILDEFONSO (right) takes a shot against Jun Limpot. FILE PHOTO

Ateneo picks 6-foot-6 Mamaril

BY DENNIS U. EROA

MAKE no mistake about it. Ateneo-Pioneer Insurance is hell-bent to finally hit paydirt when the PBL Challenge Cup unwraps on Oct. 20 at the Makati Coliseum.

Yesterday, the Insurers made Fil-Americans Mike Noble and Billy Mamaril their first round picks in a well-attended PBL rookie draft.

While the 6-foot-4 Noble isn't new to the PBL kind of game, having played with an all Fil-Am team sponsored by Hapee Toothpaste during the 1999 Visayas-Mindanao showdown, focus will be on the 6-foot-6 Mamaril, whose reed-thin father Romy played center with Ginebra San Miguel under the tutelage of now Sen. Robert Jaworski. Satisfied with their picks, Ateneo-Pioneer team manager Renato Caluag passed on the second and third round.

The presence of Noble and Mamaril give the Insurers a towering frontline. Also in their list are Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia and UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez.

Represented by team manager Manny Salgado and assistant coach Jojo Villapando, Osaka Iridilogy got James Yap of the University of the East in the first round, Kim Macanig of the Philippine Christian University-Cagayan de Oro in the second round and Loreto Soriano of the College of St. Benilde in the third round.

Another towering Fil-Am, Clark Moore of NCAA champion San Sebastian College, joined the draft and was snatched by his coach Turo Valenzona in the first round. Valenzona has replaced Leo Isaac as coach of the Montaña Jewels. The 6-foot-6 Moore, an NCAA rookie, bucked an NCAA ruling banning its players from joining the league.

Another player who elected to forego his NCAA eligibility is Letran's Ismael Juinio, who was drafted by Shark. Shark also drafted 6-foot-5 Clarence Cole, Ronaldo Ruiz and Jose Rizal University's Vic Lazaro.

Welcoat picked Adamson's Edilberto Mangulabnan, Jose de Guzman of Far Eastern University and Arnold Booker of the University of the East.

Blu Detergent got Abraham Santos of the University of the Philippines, and Joel Solis of La Salle-Dasmariñas, while Ana Freezers picked Jhayson Alminario of the University of the East.

Hapee Toothpaste drafted Rodel Mallari of Boysen, Nat Gregorio of Jose Rizal University and Far Eastern University's Dwight Chavez.

Davis Cup gives $100,000

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina—The U.S. Davis Cup tennis team is donating $100,000 to the disaster relief efforts in New York City.

"It's our small way of giving back to the people who have been closely affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy," team captain Patrick McEnroe said Wednesday. "As athletes and role models, we have a duty to help out however we can."

Kafelnikov, Rusedski upset

VIENNA, Austria — Czech clay court specialist Bohdan Ulihrach pulled off a major upset Wednesday, beating top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 7-6 (6), 6-3 in the first round of the $ 800,000 CA Trophy.

For the sixth-ranked Kafelnikov, who won the Kremlin Cup in Moscow last week, the defeat marked the fourth first-round exit in his six appearances in Vienna. Second-seeded Tim Henman of Britain was also upset, losing 3-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5) in the second round to Guillermo Canas of Argentina.

In another first-round upset, Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic breezed past Greg Rusedski of Britain 6-2, 6-2. *AP*

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Stagwars at Big Dome

BIGGER and explosive action will mark the penultimate leg of the five-leg Stagwars 2001 on Oct. 15-17, with the staging of another blockbuster NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

It will be held under the aegis of the National Cockers Association, the prestigious organization which has been providing annual scholarship grants to poor and deserving students at Miriam Academy for computer science and at the University of the Philippines-Los Banos.

Pampanga's popular Jingco and Madlambayan brothers, Rep. Rudy Albano and Boyet Joson are hosting the stagfest which kicks off with the three-stag elimination round on Monday, Oct. 15, and ends with the four-stag finals on Wednesday, Oct. 17. Only stags screened and wing-banded by NCA, NGBA, GFBAN, Balbina, Pagba and Igba are qualified for Stagwars 2001, which offers handsome cash prizes to the champion and runners-up.

Submission of weights will be on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 14, at the Big Dome. For further details, call Dong Lamoste at 911-3101. The fifth and final leg of Stagwars 2001 will be held on Oct. 22-24, with the NCA as host.

After three legs of frenetic action, setting the pace are engineer Gerry Fevidal of Geran-Arnis Master who wound up solo champion last Wednesday night by scoring seven sizzling points and solo second placer Patrick Puno of McArthur Dominator RT 114, Gov. Ito Ynares of Binangonan MK and Binangonan, respectively, solo winner and runner-up last Sept. 24-26; and first leg co-champions Jima-Fer of Jun and Rudy Jingco of Pampanga, McArthur-Sir Vincent Oct. 16-18 of Alan Tan and Geran-Arnis Master of Gerry Fevidal.

Also entries to watch are Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, the unsinkable James Chiongbian, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun "Idol" Santiago, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and Danny Hinlo, famous breeders Boy Jiao and Jun Cometa, Boy Primalion and Manny Dalipe of Zamboanga, Tony and Felix Trebol, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Velez, Vic Yu, former Tarlac Rep. Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Jun Velasco, Iking and Jimmyton Araneta, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Blandy Tolentino, Bacolod's Boy Nilo Lizares, Roel Feliciano and Sons, Jessie Viceo, Romy Panganiban and John Capinpin.

Pasay hosting LCC stag derby

BIGTIME stagfighting returns tonight at the Pasay City Cockfight as the "LCC 4-stag derby" gets going at 7 p.m. More than 50 fights are in store for aficionados.

Up for grabs is a cash prize of P300,000 in this event being hosted by the LCC Group.

Among the participants are William Co, Lito Oillaza, Peping Suarez, Lito Roquel, Wilson and Gerald Go, Peter Lingat, Vic Yu, Cito Manansala, Ramon Mancenares, Muroy Dolorico, Raymond Velayo and Boy Diaz, among others.

For other inquiries, please contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Meanwhile, two more 4-stag events will be held on Oct. 19 (Butchoy Olano) and Oct. 26 (Manuel Polo). Polo is PCC's official stag derby screener.

Mindanao games should be shelved

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

GIVEN the heightened tension and the anti-US protest over its military strikes on impoverished Afghanistan, it would be wise and prudent for the Dimaporos and PSC Commissioner William Ramirez, the chief organizers of the meet, to scrap the 1st Mindanao Friendship Games set for Nov. 11-15 in Lanao del Norte.

Instead of spending millions for staging the games, it would be better to spend the money on livelihood projects that will promote and improve the lives of the Christian and Muslim residents of the region.

In the last few days, the Islamic communities have staged mass rallies, including the one held in Marawi City by non-violent Maranaos form Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, denouncing the US-led air strikes on several Afghan cities. Although the protest action was peaceful to a large extend, there was nonetheless a feeling of insecurity and fears among the Muslim leaders who felt that, sooner or later, violence could erupt.

"There is wariness among us," said a disheartened resident. "We are afraid that pretty soon many innocent lives would be lost if this conflict escalates."

The protesters said that if the senseless bombings in Afghanistan continued, Muslims around the world would rise against their governments and fight the United States and its allies. They also assailed the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for serving as an "instrument of war" against their brother Muslims in Afghanistan for supporting the US action launched chiefly to capture dead or alive Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind of the terror attacks last Sept. 11 in New York city and the Pentagon, killing thousands of innocent people, including some Filipinos.

"The Philippines must prepare for the long haul," said Speaker Jose de Venecia the other day in a speech before the City Mayors Consultative Assembly and Policy Advocacy of the League of Cities of the Philippines. "We cannot predict the immediate repercussions of this conflict. We must prepare for the long haul because there are no set battle plans in the fight against terrorism."

On the other hand, the prestigious New York Times reported yesterday that the United states will "likely launch covert and overt actions against the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines and other terrorists groups tied to Osama bin Laden," adding "the Philippines has become a major operational hub and it's a serious concern. People linked to Bin Laden are not only in Manila but elsewhere in the Philippines."

NYT reported US officials did not give a timetable for covert and overt actions against the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorists groups, saying the campaign against the groups is global and may last for years.

Because of the chilling possibilities of a protracted and costly war, several international sporting events have already been cancelled due to security concerns. I see no reason why the organizers of the Mindanao Games can't do the same thing here. Better safe than sorry.

* * *

LESS IS DEFINITELY MORE. Vainglorious in some ways, controversial track and field czar Go Teng Kok has challenged sports leaders to show sincerity by setting the example themselves. "In the last SEA Games, for instance," Go said, "we trimmed the national pool from 90 athletes to Kuala Lumpur and yet we emerged as the winningest team (with eight gold medals won) of the 29 teams that made up the Philippine delegation.

"Why put up a larger number of athletes training in all events when we already know that we have no chances in many of them?" he asked. Go also said officials should not be the ones traveling abroad, but the athletes. "*Dapat atleta. Marami diyan ang opisyal ang biyahe ng biyahe at ang atleta ang naiiwan.*" I say amen to that.

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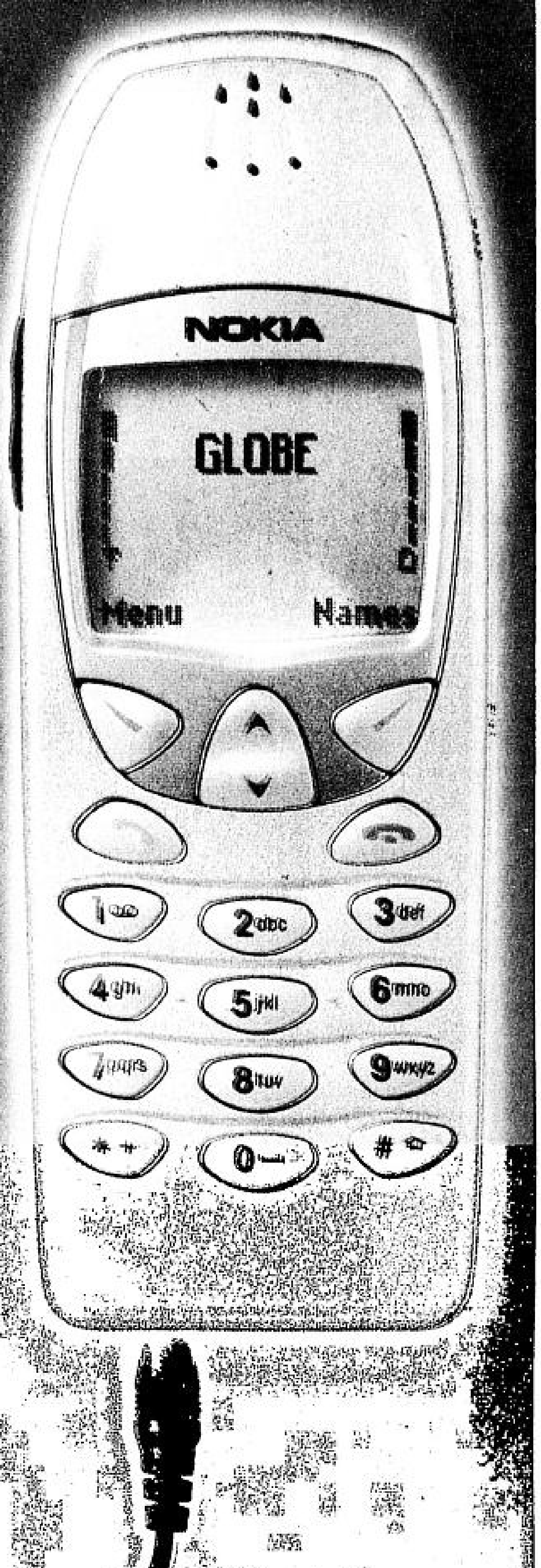
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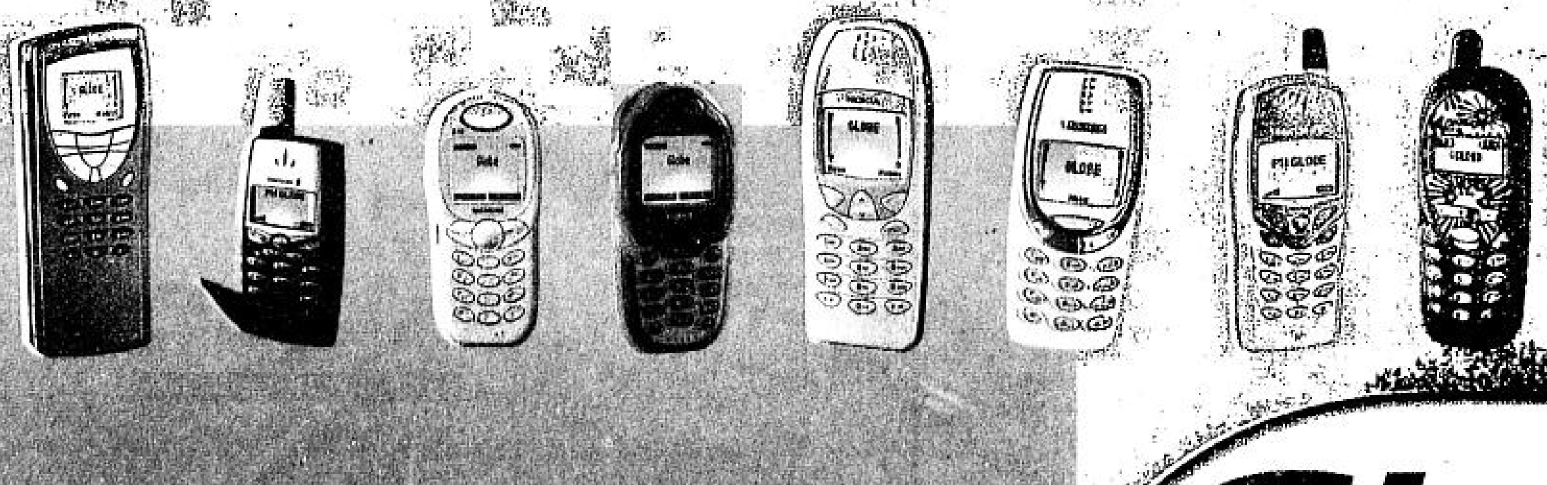

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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- Walkout mars QC hearing A26
- 10 residents injured in demolition of shanties in Taytay A26

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Ship trash to Bataan, GMA orders

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to start shipping garbage in Pier 18 to a dumpsite in Bataan as an immediate solution to the garbage mess in the metropolis.

Fed up with Metro Manila's mounting garbage problem, which she described in a previous Cabinet meeting as a "national disaster," the President yesterday summoned all Metro Manila mayors and barangay captains to an emergency meeting where three major agreements were reached to solve the garbage problem by Christmas.

The dumpsite in Bataan already has an environmental clearance certificate (ECC), according to Secretary Victoria Garchitorena, chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

But Garchitorena could not say how much garbage could be accommodated in the dumpsite, its exact location in Bataan and what arrangements were made for the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage at the site.

The second solution was to use a dumpsite in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal. But a road still has to be constructed to lead to the site without having to pass through the town proper, Garchitorena said.

Also yesterday, the President visited the

SHIP TRASH/ A27

Beauties back out

By TJ Burgonio

MISS Earth USA Abigail Royce.
ERIK ARAZAS

IN FEAR of terrorist attacks, candidates from at least 15 countries backed out of the Miss Earth beauty pageant in the Philippines, local organizers said yesterday.

Candidates from Switzerland, Germany, France, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Vietnam,

BEAUTIES/ A27

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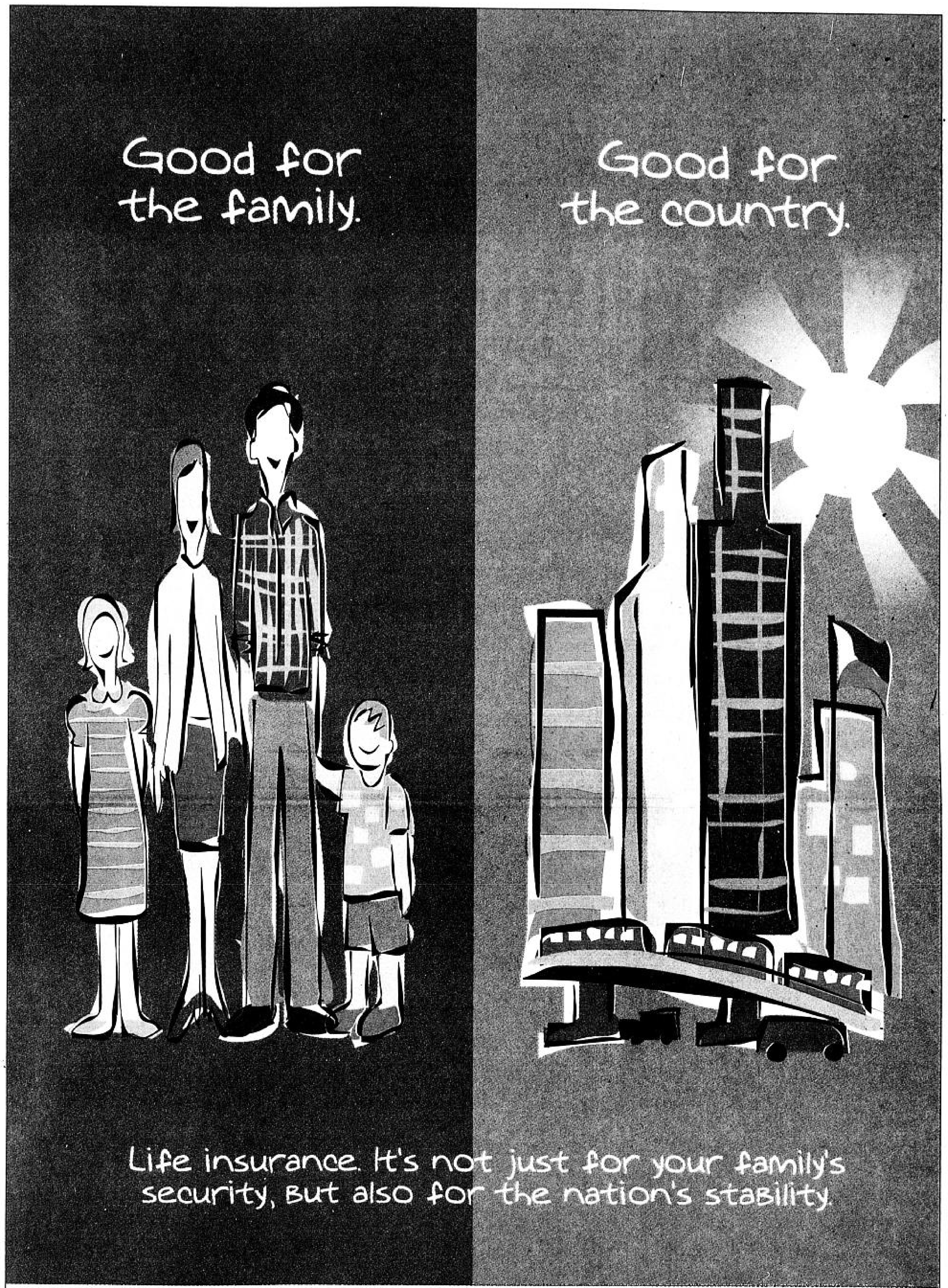
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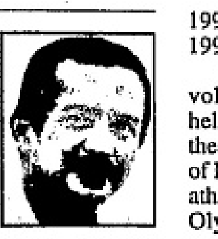
Concerned sports figure speaks up

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



(A response to one recent column has been sent to our Editor in Chief. I find it my duty to print it in full here.)

Dear Ms. Jimenez-Magsanoc,

IN reference to Mr. Recah Trinidad's column dated Oct. 1, 2001 entitled "First Families and Philippine sports," I would like to clarify certain issues brought up by Dr. Aparicio Mequi in his letter to Mr. Trinidad.

Unfortunately, Dr. Mequi failed to point out the real qualifications of the Ramos family in sport. Having been in the military for more than 30 years before he headed the country, former President Fidel V. Ramos practised a sporting life since physical fitness of course is a standard part of military discipline. He practised many sports including swimming, running, skydiving, pelota, water-skiing, scuba diving, badminton, and even chess. Additionally, President Ramos was also the past president of the Philippine Badminton Association and became the 1st vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee when Michael Keon concurrently headed the POC, Gintong Alay and the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

This love of sport President Ramos promoted in our family and among his constituents in and out of the military, since he believed that sports promoted a healthy mind and body. Under his administration, he advocated a "sports for all" policy to benefit all Filipinos which unfortunately has not been implemented by the Philippine Sports Commission. Even now at 73 years old, President Ramos still finds time to play golf, and has the physical and mental condition which would put many persons half his age to shame.

Former First Lady Amelita M. Ramos, on the other hand, holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from Boston University and a master's degree also in physical education from the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). She was also a varsity swimmer at the University of the Philippines and at the Philippine Women's University, and was also a national champion in women's singles and women's doubles in badminton. Currently, she heads the Philippine Badminton Association. Under her leadership, the Philippines has hosted a number of international badminton competitions and sent a national badminton player, in the person of Amparo "Weena" Lim, to the Olympic Games for the first time in 1996 after a series of elimination rounds. As with President Ramos, Mrs. Ramos plays golf until now.

In my case, I hold a master's degree in sport and athletic administration from the West Chester University in Pennsylvania. I played volleyball for nearly 15 years and shifted to football (soccer) when I was a college student at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB) in the 1980s. I founded the Philippine Ladies' Football Association in 1980 and won a bronze medal for the Philippines in that sport in the 1985 Southeast Asian Games (SEA) in Bangkok, Thailand. My other involvement in sport includes broadcasting, of which I was part of the broadcast pool for the local production of the 1986 World Cup (Football), 1986 Asean Track and Field Championships in Singapore, 1991 SEA Games in Manila, 1993 SEA Games in Singapore, and the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Similarly, royalty has always involved itself in sport, and this has helped promote and develop sport in their respective countries. Prince Albert of Monaco, an accomplished bobsleigh athlete who competed in several Winter Olympic Games, is currently the International Olympic Committee representative to Monaco. He also heads the Monegasque swimming, tennis and athletics federations concurrently with his position as president of the Monegasque Olympic Committee.

Princess Anne of Great Britain, likewise an accomplished athlete in her own right as an equestrienne, is involved in British and international sports. She won the gold medal in the 1971 individual European Three-day Event and represented her country in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. She was the International Equestrian Federation president from 1987 to 1993 and currently heads the Royal Yachting Association. As an IOC member, Princess Anne has staunchly criticized former IOC president Antonio Samaranch and has refused to accept gifts in relation to her influential position in the IOC.

The involvement of the presidential family in sports, or any other undertaking for that matter, should not be perceived negatively, especially if the individuals concerned are qualified and the involvement does not violate any laws nor is it being used for personal gain. Unfortunately, all aspects of Philippine society has become deeply politicized, with too much power struggle and paranoia occurring and too little concern and action to help improve the Filipino people's quality of life. —

Cristina M. Ramos
Former president, Philippine Olympic Committee

NGO office robbed

THE LEAN Alejandro Foundation Inc., a non-government organization, lost nearly P60,000 in cash and valuables to robbers who broke into its office at the corner of Matapat and Matiyaga streets in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City on Monday, the Kamuning police reported yesterday.

The foundation is named after student leader Lean Alejandro, who was murdered by rightwing extremists after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

Police said the robbers took a computer worth P40,000, a P15,000 cassette recorder, a P2,000 wristwatch, two bags of clothes, and P2,000 in cash.

Employee Evangeline C. Beles, 51, of Barangay Pinyahan, told investigators that the robbery happened between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday.

She said their office was closed and unattended when the robbers destroyed the padlock on the main door and ransacked the office.

Investigators were trying to find out if people living near the foundation's office noticed anything suspicious at the time of the robbery, police added.

Philip C. Tubeza

Walkout mars QC hearing

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

QUEZON City homeowners opposed to the establishment of a school in their subdivision walked out of a public hearing on the issue, saying they could no longer stand the "obvious partiality" of some city councilors to uphold the alleged anomalous contract between the city government and the Opus Dei-run Paref-Northfield.

Members of the Coalition of Homeowners Association (Coha) led by Mario Ongkiko stormed out of the second public hearing shortly after 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Fourth district councilor Ariel Inton, who sponsored the resolution calling for the revocation of the disputed Memorandum of Agreement, said the residents were apparently upset when some city councilors refused to revoke the contract and argued for its amendment.

Former Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. entered into a contract with Paref-Northfield, allowing school authorities to occupy a 3.1-hectare lot near Christ the King Church in Greenmeadows, valued at P1 billion, reportedly without paying rent over the next 50 years.

The MOA also obligated the city government to pay the school 25 percent of the lot's assessed value at the end of the 50-year period.

Should the city government fail to pay the amount, the school would use the property for another 50 years without rent.

Greenmeadows residents said the contract would have the city government at a disadvantage.

They said the councilors in favor of amending the MOA were said to be the ones who pushed for the signing of the contract.

"The homeowners want a revocation of the contract because they believed it is anomalous," Inton said. "But the original proponents argued that the contract should just be amended."

Seven members of the City Council investigating the deal were among those who authored a hastily passed resolution last year approving the MOA after former Mayor Mathay certified it as urgent.

They are Wilma Amoranto Sarino, Vincent Crisologo, Jorge Banal, Julian Coseteng, Eric Medina, Rommel Abesamis and Jesus Suntay.

But critics of the deal, led by Coha, said that the resolution approving the school construction was railroaded through the council and that there were no consultations with most of the residents who would be affected by the project.

Meanwhile, Paref-Northfield school authorities said they were only serving the interest of the public and its youth when they decided to relocate the school to Greenmeadows III.

Pierangelo Alejo, Paref-Northfield's executive director, said they "explained to the councilors the legality of the procedures followed, the viability of the project and, most of all, the benefits of the school for the community and the city at large."

10 residents injured in demolition of shanties in Taytay

By Agnes Donato

AT LEAST 10 people were hurt when residents of a squatter colony in Taytay, Rizal tried but failed to prevent a demolition crew from leveling their shanties yesterday.

Danny Cansino, 43, board director of the Camacho Talyano Neighborhood Association, said the demolition team started to tear down their homes in Sitio Tapayan, Barangay Sta. Ana, Taytay about 8 a.m.

At press time, the demolition crew, composed of policemen from Taytay and Antipolo City, had demolished about 100 houses.

Cansino said the policemen failed to present to squatter residents the court order allowing the demolition. He also said there was still a case pending before the Antipolo City Regional Trial Court regarding the matter.

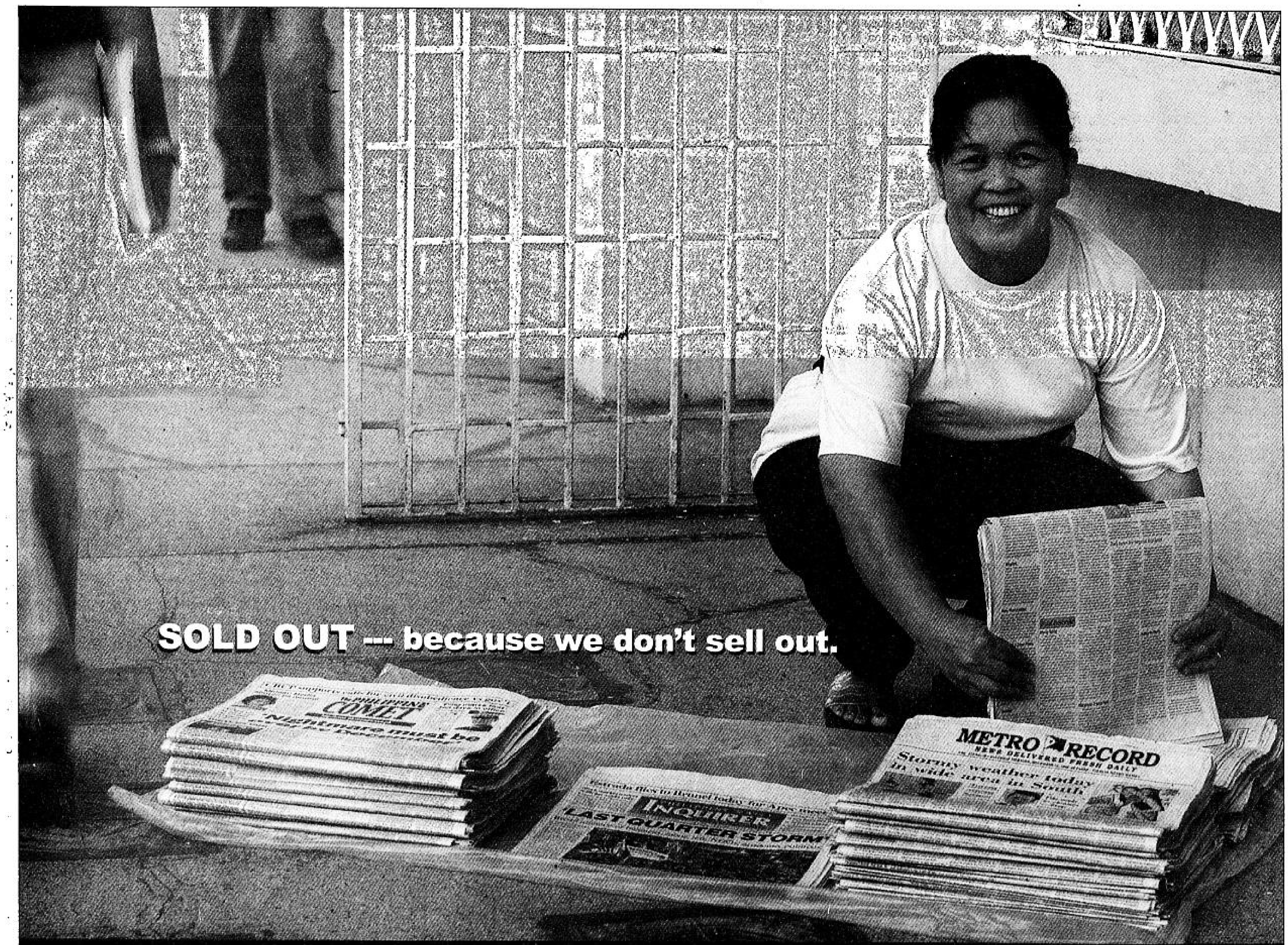
He described how policemen allegedly ganged up on Allan Dangal, another leader of the residents' organization, when Dangal tried to stop the demolition.

Dangal's house was reportedly the first to be torn down.

Cansino said the squatters won a case they filed last month before the Taytay Regional Trial Court against the land claimant, a certain Mr. Co.

The Chinese-Filipino businessman, who allegedly failed to present sufficient evidence to prove his ownership of the land, reportedly filed an appeal before the Antipolo court, where the judge has yet to hear the case.

Cansino also claimed that his party asked the court for a temporary restraining order, but the court failed to act on the petition in time.



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6 QC cops accused of 'hulidap'

By Philip C. Tubeza

SIX Quezon City policemen are in hot water after a Cubao club manager accused them of robbing him of P8,000.

Ricardo Sullivan Mendiola, manager of Idol Disco in Cubao, Quezon City, told investigators that six lawmen from the La Loma police station's police community precinct 2 did not return his driver's license and the P8,000 in cash after they took his wallet, according to investigator PO1 Joseh Madrid of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Mendiola told Madrid that the suspects introduced themselves as Narcotics Command agents and forced him out of his maroon Mitsubishi Adventure (WLR 645) at gunpoint.

But PO2 Noel J. Bautista, PO2 Eden C. Lim, and PO1 Marcos C. de Guzman, the La Loma policemen who admitted they apprehended Mendiola, denied that they robbed him.

They claimed that Mendiola was arrested because his van was suspected of being used in criminal activities.

They said Mendiola and his wife, a certain Norma, even berated them for apprehending the complainant.

Mendiola said he was driving from Bulacan when the policemen flagged down his car in Balintawak around 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 8.

He claimed that the six policemen introduced themselves as Narcom agents and at gunpoint told him to get out of his van.

Fearing that they were car thieves, Mendiola got out of his car but then locked its doors.

He said one of the policemen introduced himself as a lawman and asked if they could check his van.

Mendiola said he insisted that they go to the nearby precinct. The policemen agreed but they allegedly took his wallet, Mendiola said.

At the station, the policemen searched his car and found nothing incriminating. They released Mendiola but they did not return the P8,000 in cash and his driver's license, Madrid said.

But the three policemen said in a memo that Mendiola "shouted derogatory remarks at the duty desk officer" at the precinct, told everyone that he was the manager of Idol disco and even distributed calling cards.

The complainant also allegedly called up senior police officers he knew. They said one such official talked to their commander through Mendiola's cellular phone.

They said Mendiola was ordered released by their "commander in compliance with their agreement with the ranking police officer whom he earlier talked to."

But as Mendiola was about to be released, his wife arrived and berated the policemen, they said.

RPN-9 president faces graft raps

LINCOLN Tan, president and general manager of RPN-9, is facing graft charges before the Office of the Ombudsman, former RPN News and Current Affairs vice president Edwin Fargas said yesterday.

Fargas said Tan is in hot water for "culpable violations of the anti-graft and corrupt practices act."

Fargas said that some of the charges against Tan arose from his "personal trips abroad disguised as business trips."

He said Tan is also being sued for refusing to give a copy of a contract entered into by him and the Tieng brothers of Solar Entertainment.

Fargas said Tan's refusal to bare details of the contract confirmed suspicions that "the same was disadvantageous to the network."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 12, 2001
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Gospel: Lk 11:15-26

As Jesus was casting out a devil some of the people said, "He drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the chief of the demons." So others wanted to put him to the test by asking him for a heavenly sign.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every nation divided by civil war is on the road to ruin, and will fall. If Satan also is divided, his empire is coming to an end. How can you say that I drive out demons by calling upon Beelzebul? If I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your fellow members drive out demons? They themselves will give you the answer.

But suppose I drive out demons by the finger of God; would not this mean that the kingdom of God has come upon you? As long as the strong and armed man guards his house, his goods are safe. But when a stronger one attacks and overcomes him, the challenger takes away all the weapons he relied on and disposes of his spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters.

When the evil spirit goes out of a person, it wanders through dry lands looking for a resting place. And finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds the house swept and everything in order. Then it goes to fetch seven other spirits even worse than itself. They move in and settle there, so that the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Commentary

The crowd demands a sign from heaven. This is the greatest mistake of unbelief. The unbelieving crowd cannot recognize the sign. Instead, they accuse Jesus of what they themselves practice. It is by "the finger of God" that Jesus overcomes evil, and this is the sign that the kingdom has come. No one can be neutral with God now that Jesus has come. Either we are for him or for evil. No middle ground. In the end, those who miss the sign are vulnerable to the power of evil. In addition, it is not enough that we are cleansed of evil already. If we are for Jesus, we have to grow in his word. The soul must have a master. Otherwise, evil takes hold of us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Abandonment of employment—The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) did not find any evidence to support petitioner's allegation that private respondents abandoned their employment. The records reveal that their failure to report for duty was not caused by a willful and deliberate intent to abandon their employment. Rather, such failure resulted from their belief, though mistaken, that they had been suspended or terminated from work. The rule is that for abandonment to exist, two elements must concur: first, the employee must have failed to report for work or must have been absent without justifiable reason; and second, there must have been a clear intention to sever the employer-employee relationship manifested by some overt acts. The filing by the private respondents of their complaint for illegal dismissal negates the existence of any intention on their part to abandon their employment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Security and Credit Investigation, Inc. v. NLRC, G.R. No. 114316, January 16, 2001]

Digest by R. B. Vera

EARTH AND WATER. Ms Earth contestants who are unafraid of the terrorist threat are presented to media at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati.

ERIK ARAZAS

Beauties back out

(From page A25)

Hong Kong, Nepal and Malawi were among those who backed out.

But Miss USA Abigail Royce, 25, was not among those who withdrew from the pageant despite an earlier advisory to Americans to exercise caution when travelling to the Philippines.

"I don't think that the terrorists should stop us from living our lives," said Royce, a model and an actress from California. "That's what they want us to do. They want to scare us and keep us inside. And they want to hinder us from carrying on as usual and if they can do that, they've won and we can't let them win.

"We're trying to do a good thing. And we're trying to promote environmental awareness. If the terrorists stop me from doing that, then they win. I don't believe that the evil should win. The good should prevail."

Asked what she has done to help the victims of the terrorist attacks on America, Royce said that all she could do was go on and live her life and give the victims money.

Ramon Monzon, president of pageant organizer Carousel Productions Inc., said there were originally 60 participating countries in Miss Earth, the first beauty contest to focus on environmental care and protection.

But this was whittled down to 52 after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, and then to 43 following air strikes on Afghanistan by the US-led coalition on Monday.

"We have 15 countries that backed out after the World Trade Center attacks," Monzon said. "A lot of the girls were not allowed by their parents to travel. I talked to parents of four candidates and their worry was that they might get stranded here."

False reports that the US might attack the Philippines for harboring the Abu Sayyaf bandits, who were reported to have links with terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, also did not help, Monzon said.

"If you ask the European countries here, I think the news coming out is that we would be attacked by the US because of the Abu Sayyaf," he said. "But I told them that we are allies of the US and that we will never be attacked."

Yesterday, Royce of the US and 34 other swimsuit-clad candidates, including Philippine representative Carlene Aguilar, were presented to the media at the poolside of Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati.

Candidates from Bolivia, Peru, Lebanon, Hungary, Australia, South Africa, Canada and Chile are expected to arrive in the next few days, Monzon said.

The pageant will be held at the UP Theater in Diliman Quezon City on Oct. 28.

While still a beauty contest, Miss Earth is different because of its theme of caring and protecting Mother Earth, Monzon said.

"What we would like to do is to have the girls focus on a very worthy cause," he said. "We believe using beautiful girls to promote a cause really gives a lot of attention to the cause, which is the care and protection of the environment."

This early, the beauty contestants have been going around different cities and schools in Metro Manila to plant trees from seedlings provided by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The contestants have also been promoting waste segregation.

Ex-Mayor Lopez proposes 'practical' solution to Mehan Garden problem

By Jerome Aning

INSTEAD of building a new campus for the City Colleges of Manila, why not just build classrooms for college students in public high schools and send professors there?

Former Mayor and Congressman Gemiliano "Mel" Lopez yesterday made this proposal as he urged the city government not to build the CCM on the historic Mehan Garden and instead to spend the city's revenues wisely.

In an interview, Lopez said it would be "economical and practical" for the CCM students to be housed in classrooms located in the districts where they live.

He said that between 1991 and 1992, when he was mayor, he set aside classrooms for CCM students at the Ramon Magsaysay and Torres high schools.

Under the scheme, college professors were given additional allowances so that they could go from one school to another to teach.

"We know CCM students come from poor families and barely have enough money for their fares and other expenses, so we should spare them this difficulty by providing the classrooms in their districts," he said.

According to Lopez's proposal, the CCM would be "expanded" by building "satellite" schools that would be housed within the largest high school compounds in the city's six districts.

General and major courses would be offered in each satellite school.

The former mayor said the P180 million allotted for the construction of the new CCM campus on Mehan Garden could be used in developing the park instead.

The project was temporarily shelved last June due to protests by environmentalists and conservationists who wanted Mehan to remain a park.

City Hall and the Department of Tourism are negotiating the swapping of the park with the Old Ateneo Municipal de Manila campus in Intramuros, as an alternative site for the CCM campus.

Doctor sues 'Dating Daan' leader for calling her a 'quack' on TV

By Agnes Donato

FOR calling her a "quack," a doctor slapped a million-peso libel suit against Bro. Elizeo Soriano, the spiritual leader of Ang Dating Daan.

Dr. Nancy Pascua, 44, a Roman Catholic and resident of Barangay Burgos, Rodriguez, Rizal, filed the civil case before the Rizal Prosecutor's Office yesterday afternoon.

In her complaint-affidavit, Pascua said Soriano called her "a quack doctor" in his nationwide TV program "Ang Dating Daan," aired daily on RJTV Channel 21.

Pascua claimed Soriano made the remark some time after she and a friend, Bernardo Santiago, went to the house of her former classmate, Leonora Jimenez, in Oro Vista Subdivision, Marikina City.

Santiago is a former member of Ang Dating Daan but has since been renounced by the sect allegedly for committing adultery. He has since transferred to the Iglesia ni Cristo.

Santiago went to Jimenez's house allegedly to convince Jimenez and her family to break away from Soriano's group.

Jimenez refused to let Pascua and Santiago into her house, explaining that there was a rule among Ang Dating Daan members prohibiting them from speaking to those who had been cast out by the sect.

But while Pascua and Santiago were still at Jimenez's residence, another sect member reportedly called up and found out Santiago was there.

The caller apparently informed other sect members, prompting those living nearby to go to Jimenez's house. Someone then started to take video footage of Santiago, who then hurriedly left, injuring himself in his haste to get out.

In the TV program "Ang Tamang Daan," which is run by members of the Iglesia ni Cristo, Santiago's peers came to his defense and accused the other group of beating him up.

This was rebutted later by Soriano, who in his argument allegedly described Pascua as "a quack doctor."

But according to a minister of Ang Dating Daan, Rolando Ocampo, the doctor only filed the libel case because she was mad over her husband's conversion to the sect last February.

Mr. Pascua's decision to become a member of sect reportedly resulted in increased tension between him and his wife, who chose to remain Catholic.

Ship trash to Bataan, GMA orders

(From page A25)

Rodriguez dumpsite with officials, including Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, "because they already consider (the garbage problem) a national disaster."

The third agreement reached was the dredging of Tullahan River in Malabon to rid it of garbage and silt that cause floods.

Garchitorena said the President called the meeting because she was disappointed that the garbage problem had not been solved six months after a garbage summit was held in Malacañang.

All Metro Manila mayors, barangay captains, leaders of large residential subdivisions and heads of commercial establishments were called to the meeting. Barangay captains of the seven biggest barangays in Quezon City, one of which has 300,000 residents, attended the meeting.

Garchitorena said the President felt the only way to solve the garbage problem is to "really call the frontline local government officials."

"As frontline officials, they have the primary responsibility for (solving the garbage problem)," she said.

Garchitorena said Ms Macapagal urged all mayors to wipe out the garbage problem by December.

"In fact, the President's appeal to the Metro Manila mayors was to get all of this done by Christmas so that we will have a merry Christmas," Garchitorena said.

The President also vowed to monitor the performance of the mayors personally, according to Garchitorena.

During the three-hour meeting, Ms Macapagal went around the tables asking every mayor what kind of garbage disposal and collection were being implemented in their areas, Garchitorena said.

The President also asked those who were doing it well to present their cases as "best practices" for the others to emulate, Garchitorena added.

"She feels that for the problem to be solved in the long run, it has to be solved at the source," Garchitorena said. "Therefore, she called upon the mayors, captains and (leaders of) subdivisions to do their own waste segregation, recycling and composting so that only residual wastes would be thrown at the dumpsite."

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. also appealed for public cooperation in solving the garbage problem.

Without the public's cooperation, all money spent on garbage disposal and efforts made by the MMDA would only be wasted, Abalos said.

"Without the public's active cooperation there is no end in sight to the garbage problem," he said.

But he maintained that "the MMDA must be given a chance to do its best in cleaning Metro Manila."

Abalos said that wanton garbage disposal in every nook and cranny of Metro Manila is a major factor for the mounds of garbage that have sprouted all over the metropolis. *With Nelson F. Flores*

No choice but to relocate, says mayor

By Agnes Donato

ANTIPOLO Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan yesterday said he had no choice but to convince the squatters evicted from the Sumulong Highway in 1999 to move to another site to be provided by the city government.

Gatlabayan, who was charged with graft charges on Thursday for allegedly refusing to pay for two private lots used as relocation site for the squatters, admitted that he knew from the start that the lots were covered by the certificate of land ownership award with restrictions.

But he added that he had an agreement with owners Domingo and Angela Reforsado that they would cooperate with him while the city government was working on the conversion of the land from agricultural to residential.

The Department of Agriculture, however, subsequently refused to convert the land.

"The city government could not have bought those two lots because their titles said they could not be sold for 10 years," Gatlabayan said.

He said the Reforsados still had an unpaid loan with the Landbank, in which they used the lots as collateral.

He explained that even the P500,000 down payment paid to the Reforsados in 1999 did not come from government funds but from a certain Emiliano Neri, who owned the lot where the squatters were evicted from.

"I don't have much choice, really," the mayor said. "I'm being sued for not paying for the lots. But another party would have also gone after me if I did pay for them."

He said he would try to convince the 500 squatter families living on the Reforsado land to transfer to the public-owned Tanza II relocation site.

He promised to shell out some of his own money to assist the families in settling at the new site, as most of them were not willing to move for financial and practical reasons.

40th year

THE ALPHA Sigma Fraternity of the University of the Philippines will mark its 40th anniversary today, Oct. 12, with a gathering at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel starting at 7 p.m.

All members of the fraternity from the UP campuses in Diliman, Manila and Los Baños are invited to join the event.

For inquiries, please call the secretariat of the UP Alpha Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association Inc. at 635-2234.

'America's Sweethearts' delivers the laughs

By EMMIE G. VELARDE

REVIEW

START spreading the news. I'm looking for a movie star with the emotional intelligence of a diva, to work for as personal assistant — runner, cook, confidant, scapegoat, and doormat. It is the ultimate weight-loss prescription, according to this movie, which chucks all I've ever done to lose the fat suit that grew on me, and grew on me, after I banished all manner of meat from my diet. It's not funny.

Weights, aerobics, taebo, all for naught. And then Julia Roberts plays a character whose name is unprintable in this country, and who loses 60 pounds just by putting her heart to sleep and her life on hold. Honestly.

Come to think of it, so did Renee Zellweger as Bridget Jones! Am I to believe that Hugh Grants and John Cusacks await pastry junkies and gym dropouts who are about to embrace clinical depression?

All right, I confess. I ignored warnings of people that I would trust implicitly with my SSS loan, went right ahead and saw "America's Sweethearts," but only to watch Hank Azaria and Christopher Walken steal the show from Julia, John and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

That this can't be done to Billy Crystal is always a given. Can anyone forget Azaria as the bumbling, cross-dressing Hispanic help in "The Bird Cage?" Once again, he takes up the accent—as disorienting on him as it is disarming on Antonio Banderas—this time to dispense as a halfwit macho.

Christopher Walken reprises his dancing role in a jaw-dropping Fat Boy Slim video, here as an eccentric filmmaker. With less than five minutes of screen time, Walken adds another entry to his register of unique performances.

That the distinct possibility of show-stealing never happens, is a tribute to director Joe Roth and writers Peter Nolan ("Analyze This") and Crystal. All the characters are kept in individual ranges with enough latitude to do their thing, and do it to their personal satisfaction as well as the audience's.

Smarter pranks

In fact, the moviegoer can look forward to smarter pranks and snappier situations than those shown in the trailer.

The credit may be shared by the actors, as well, including Zeta-Jones, heretofore the least promising in a comedy.

"America's Sweethearts" refers to a movie star couple (Zeta-Jones and Cusack) on the verge of divorce, who must fake a happy marriage during a press junket to promote their latest work. It was originally written for Crystal to star in, direct and produce for Castle Rock, something he had gone to announce on "The David Letterman Show" on TV.

But Castle Rock passed, and the project was scooped up by Roth, who left chairmanship of Walt Disney Productions last year to form his own Revolution Studios.

Roth says he felt instant rapport with the material. "I've been on a thousand junkets," he explains.

He could be speaking for those viewers who rolled on the aisle or otherwise exhibited similar excessive reactions. The movie is a lot funnier for people who've come close enough to film stars, filmmakers and filmmaking, to witness flying tempers, obscene maneuverings and split personalities, first-hand.

For the rest of movie fans worldwide who are allowed to see only sumptuous morsels of pairings, partings and repairings, it is at best . . . well, still funny.

Juicy role

We get to see the very folds of a cutting-edge publicist's mind, enhanced by sharp people skills and flawless bedside manners. Crystal was deftly installed in this juicy role of press junket genius. He organizes the big film promo event that will bring the estranged celebrity couple together, for precious mileage.

Turning into PR advantage every scene of the disaster that ensues, he gives new dimension to the term "positive thinking."

Always take credit for anything that goes well, is his first rule on the job. And should anything go awry, document it for the six o'clock news.

Roberts plays the ego-maniac leading lady's sister-slave who's in love with the soon-to-be-ex husband. This is the character that mocks my, and thousands of other women's, earnest efforts at shedding unwanted poundage. She used to be so fat, her sister's husband can't remember if, on a drunken night, he had kissed and held her, or merely sank into her cheeks and torso.

At the time of the plot's unfolding less than two years later, *believe it or not*, she looks exactly like Julia Roberts.

If they weren't so amusing, the yoga ashram scenes would offend me, for reasons that should be easy to figure out two paragraphs from now.

The actor-husband, dumped for the logic-deficient Latin lover (Azaria) runs to a guru (a bonus: Allan Arkin!) for comfort and straightening in the head. Living on herbs and surrounded by hatha yogis, the actor obviously still needs a lot of working on. He is nevertheless released by his guru to the publicist's care for the duration of the junket—on exchange for a sports car of the guru's choice.

This is not the almost-offensive part. And neither is a long white-haired spiritual coach in a speeding convertible the coarsest insinuation among countless others. But always in the ashram scenes, the backdrop consists of non-speaking yogis in various asanas or poses, one of which I recognize as a personal favorite. Out of sequence and certainly out of context, the pose looks comical. I'm afraid I may never again fully appreciate it.

However, neither my predicament, nor the fact that many American critics were quick to give "America's Sweethearts" rotten tomatoes, should stop you from getting your laughs now.

It may be harder to see the humor, say a few years from now, when we become a little more like them, if that is possible, with our own Divorce Law.

ROBERTS. As the ego-maniac leading lady's sister-slave in the film

Going golden

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT LOOKS like this is the year for some of the show biz world's best-loved entertainers to turn 50. Last month, **Jeanne Young** told us that she had become a Golden Girl, and last week, we learned that **Tessie Tomas** had done the same. And now, it's **Mitch Valdes'** turn to "go golden."

Mitch is marking that landmark event in her life with a musical-comedy show at the Onstage in Greenbelt on Oct. 13, 20 and 27. Madcap, tuneful evenings are in store for Mitch's loyal fans—who may be going golden, too!

That being the case, expect Mitch to share some thoughts on maturity, and all the fun and –un things it brings: Like is it true that, when you reach 50, the urge to merge goes on a downsurge? Does sex become –ex? And, when does gold turn to old?

—And done with Mitch's famous comic zest and flair, of course. And with similarly zestful musical numbers to remind everyone that Mitch is one of the best musical performers we've got.

The lady may have turned golden, but olden, she definitely is not!

'Oprah'

FROM Oct. 15 to 19 at 1 p.m. on Star World, "Oprah" offers the following treats:

Monday, Oct. 15, start your week with tests posed by **Oprah**'s favorite counselor in "Dr. Phil's Real Challenge."

Tuesday, Oct. 16, "How to Forgive Yourself." Do you always blame yourself for the bad things that happen in your life? This episode teaches you how to gain a clearer perspective on things.

Wednesday, Oct. 17, get in touch with your surroundings and learn to love Mother Nature by viewing "Gary Zukov: The Earth School."

Thursday, Oct. 18, "Oprah's Book Club" clues you in on some of the books really worth reading.

Friday, Oct. 19, "How to Make Your Money Grow." You have money, but you don't know how it can help you earn more? This episode's for you.

On Star Movies

STAR Movies presents some interesting films this weekend: Friday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m., "Jane Doe" with **Calista Flockhart**.

Saturday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m., "Mystery, Alaska," with **Russell Crowe** leading a small-town hockey team against the New York Rangers. At 9 p.m., "Lake Placid," with **Bridget Fonda** being terrorized by a man-eating alligator.

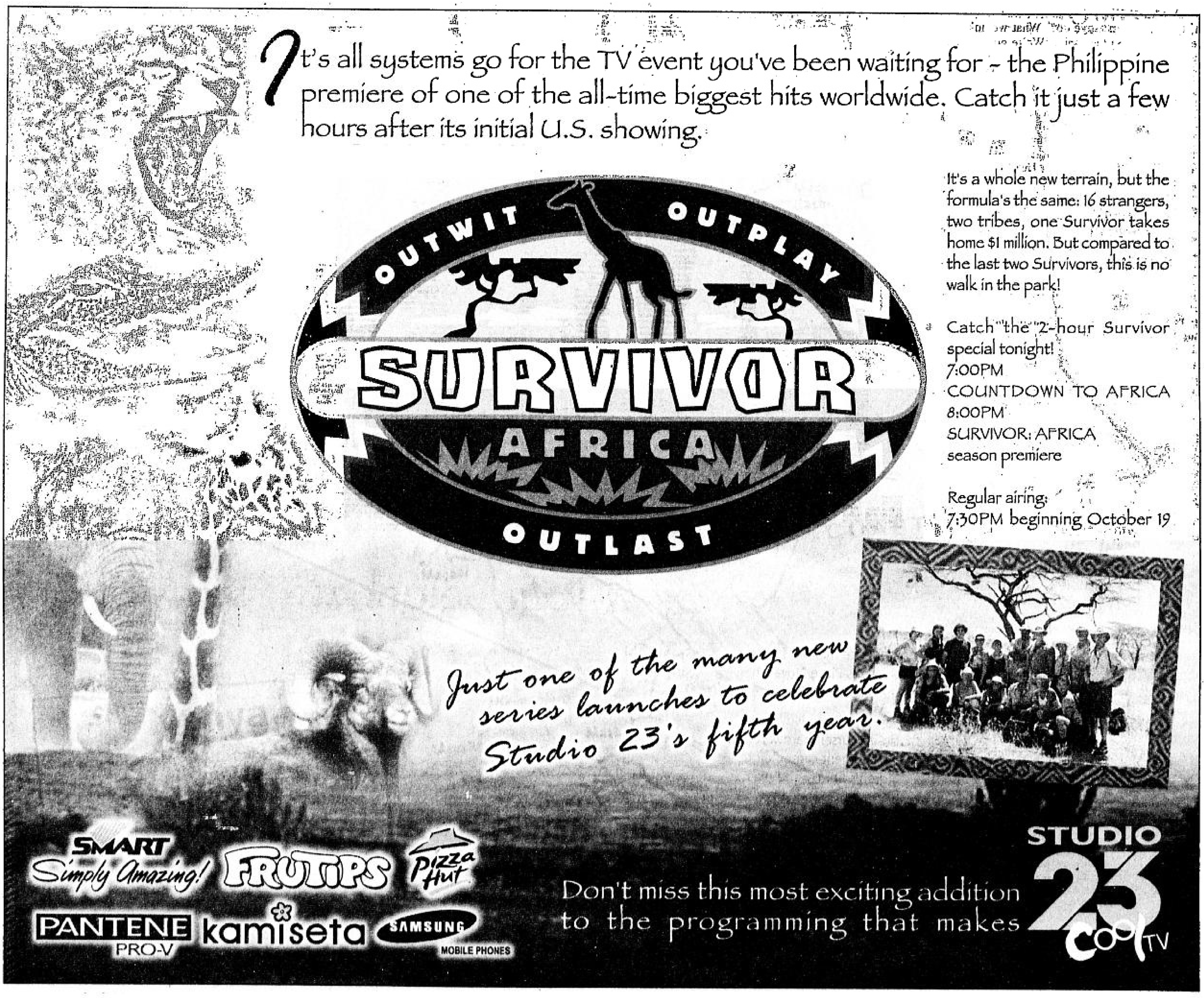
Sunday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m., "The Distinguished Gentleman" shows how **Eddie Murphy** cons the US Congress. At 9 p.m., "Entrapment," starring **Catherine Zeta-Jones** and **Sean Connery**.

'Survivor' special

TONIGHT at 7, "Survivor: Africa" airs on Studio 23 in a two-hour, special. The new adventure game show will be seen on Studio 23 every Friday thereafter at 7:30 p.m.

The show's previous editions have been huge hits and have done a lot to make "reality TV" the "in" thing on the tube worldwide.

"Survivor: Africa" is hosted once more by **Jeff Probst**. As he did in the show's first two editions, he will preside over food challenges, immunity tests, and the game show's dreaded tribal council, where the survivors' fates are decided on and sealed.


It's all systems go for the TV event you've been waiting for – the Philippine premiere of one of the all-time biggest hits worldwide. Catch it just a few hours after its initial U.S. showing.

It's a whole new terrain, but the formula's the same: 16 strangers, two tribes, one Survivor takes home $1 million. But compared to the last two Survivors, this is no walk in the park!

Catch the 2-hour Survivor special tonight!
7:00PM
COUNTDOWN TO AFRICA
8:00PM
SURVIVOR: AFRICA
season premiere

Regular airing:
7:30PM beginning October 19

Don't miss this most exciting addition to the programming that makes

McKnight is comfortable with his music

"ONE last cry, one last cry. Before I leave it all behind. I gotta put you out of my mind this time. Stop living a lie. I guess I'm down to my last cry . . ."

No one can sing it any better than the original artist. And **Brian McKnight**, who recorded the hit ballad in 1992, is still at it—churning out hauntingly sentimental lyrics and beautiful melodies to create a hit single.

"One Last Cry" became a popular anthem especially for the hopeless romantics. Up to this day, the chart-topping ballad is still very much a favorite on local airlanes.

But more than just being a hit debut single for Brian, "One Last Cry" signaled a lengthy career for the R&B crooner.

In town recently to promote his latest release, "Superhero," Brian sang "One Last Cry" to a jampacked crowd at Hard Rock Café. He did a concert showcase, which thrilled hundreds of his local fans.

Brian's Manila visit was part of his Asian promo tour for "Superhero" which kicked off in Korea. After Manila, he went to Taiwan and Hong Kong, before returning to Los Angeles where he is based.

Brian is undoubtedly one of the most enduring singer-songwriters who is steadily in a league of his own. In an age when categories like jazz and pop are increasingly blurred, Brian is comfortable with the music he writes and the songs he performs.

With "Superhero," the romantic balladeer takes his music to a different level. The album boasts an adventurous style and different music genres, including rock, jazz, ballads and midtempo groove pop tracks.

"If you look back to the records that I made, they've been littered with a lot of music," Brian tells entertainment writers during a press conference at Hard Rock Café. "My first record had jazz, R&B and pop music. Every record was described to entertain. I wanted to have a record that's really indicative of my real personality. A lot of times, people have been saying, 'Oh, you're so sweet. You're sensitive.'

"If you listen to the songs in the new album, I'm that, too. But I'm also kind of crazy, kind of silly. And I wanted to show a different side of my personality on this album."

Not a few took note that "Superhero" also has a particular sound which is new.

"That sound had always been in me and I've been trying to get that sound out," Brian says. "I had to wait until the audience was ready to hear me."

"Superhero" takes off with the carrier track, "Love of My Life," which is another romantic ballad. Brian didn't even think the song would make it as one of the cuts in the album.

"I was just playing on the keyboards when I did it and I never thought in my wildest imagination that it would actually make the record," he shares.

"In the first version of this song, I was like, 'What would **Marvin Gaye** do?' What would **Prince** do?' But then they said, 'We're gonna do this as the single.' I said, 'You're crazy. No one will ever think that's me'."

In the cut, "My Kind of Girl," Brian duets with **Justin Timberlake** of N'Sync. This is not the first time that he has worked with a young artist. He worked with the likes of **Mariah Carey** and **Puff Daddy** when they were still singing tyros.

"I think Justin and I both benefit from having each other as friends," Brian grants. "He can look at me and ask me things about experiences he has yet to go through, even not so much on the record industry level, but on a personal level. I do see a lot of me in Justin at that same age."

The new sound of "Superhero" can be attributed to Brian's varied musical influences. As a child, he started playing the piano when he was five and grew up to classical, jazz and gospel music.

"Anything from Bach to Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, to the Platters, **Nat King Cole**, **Woody Herman** and **Gino Vannelli**. My parents have a very huge collection. My brothers loved sophisticated multi-leveled music."

He also looks up to music icons such as **Billy Caldwell**, **Stevie Wonder**, **Michael Sembello**, **Michael McDonald** and **Kenny Loggins**.

"We can sit and go through every song I recorded and I can tell you, this one is Stevie, right there is Billy Caldwell, this one is Kenny Loggins. They are the people that I try to emulate all my life."

While the public is wont to think that Brian is fascinated with superheroes, the singer points out "Superhero" is about self-sacrifice. He pays homage to those people who do things every day that go unrecognized, like teachers, firemen, police, parents.

"You don't have to literally save somebody's life to be a superhero," Brian maintains. "Take a look at the people around you who lead different lives. For that minute you're connected. You don't know what kind of day that person had. He could have lost a loved one or he could have been fired.

"That one time when you looked at that person could have changed his whole outlook and you can be a superhero. Guards and cops who put their lives on the line, I appreciate them. They are my superheroes."

Brian traces his music foundation to an African-American church in Buffalo, New York, where he sang regularly with his brothers—Claude, Freddie and Michael—in a gospel quartet. Since then, Brian assures nothing much has changed as far as his musicality is concerned.

"The foundation of what I did then is still the same now," he asserts. "You can still feel the spirituality of the music that I do, even if it does not necessarily talk about God. The only difference is that I'm performing now to a much bigger audience.

"Honestly, that I'm still making records and having the best success of my career now still baffles me. I've seen artists come and go and I'm grateful that I'm still here and on top of my game, that I'm able to do something that I love to do which is making music."

When not onstage, Brian tries to maintain a normal life. He has been married for 12 years now, with two kids.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"When I'm not being Brian McKnight, I like being with my family," he says. "I think my family is the reason which keeps me grounded."

Brian's popularity has prompted some of his fans to tag him as a sex symbol, especially when he performs onstage. But Brian refuses to think otherwise.

"I really don't think about it. Anyone who lives a public life gets that tag attached to him/her. If there's somebody out there that likes that, so be it. If not, hopefully they'll like my music."

Off to LA

BY THE time you read this column, we are already in Los Angeles to cover the gala night of **Lea Salonga**'s new musical, "Flower Drum Song."

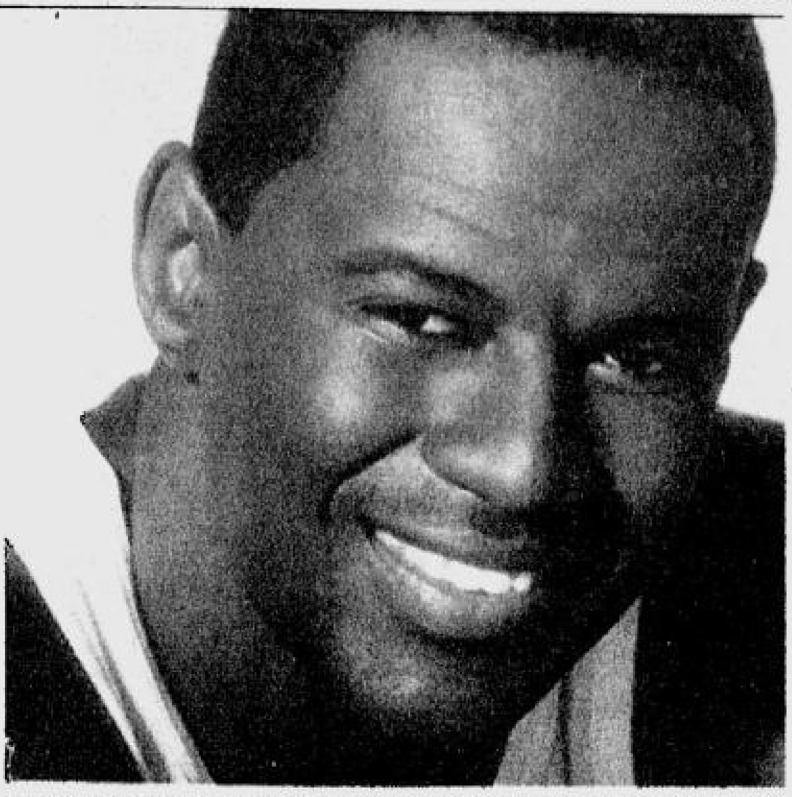
The Tony Award-winning Lea is set to conquer the stage anew as she plays **Mei-li** in the revival of the classic musical, with a new book by **David Henry Hwang**, himself a Tony winner with credits that include "M. Butterfly" and "Aida."

This is the first time that "Flower Drum Song" will be revived onstage since the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical bowed on Broadway in 1958.

The new version is being mounted by Center Theater Group (CTG) at the Mark Taper Forum at The Music Center in downtown LA. The prestigious venue is one of the three largest performing centers in the United States. It has previously hosted award-winning productions like "Angels in America" and "Children of a Lesser God."

Last August, Lea temporarily moved to LA from New York, where she has been based for the last five years after living in Boston.

As Mei-li, Lea gets to sing the memorable tunes from "Flower Drum Song," like "A Hundred Million Miracles" and "I Am Going To Like It Here," plus two new songs—"Love Look Away" and "The Next Time It Happens."



MCKNIGHT. Takes his music to a different level with his latest album, "Superhero."

Longer Malling Fun Hours *Start at 7AM*

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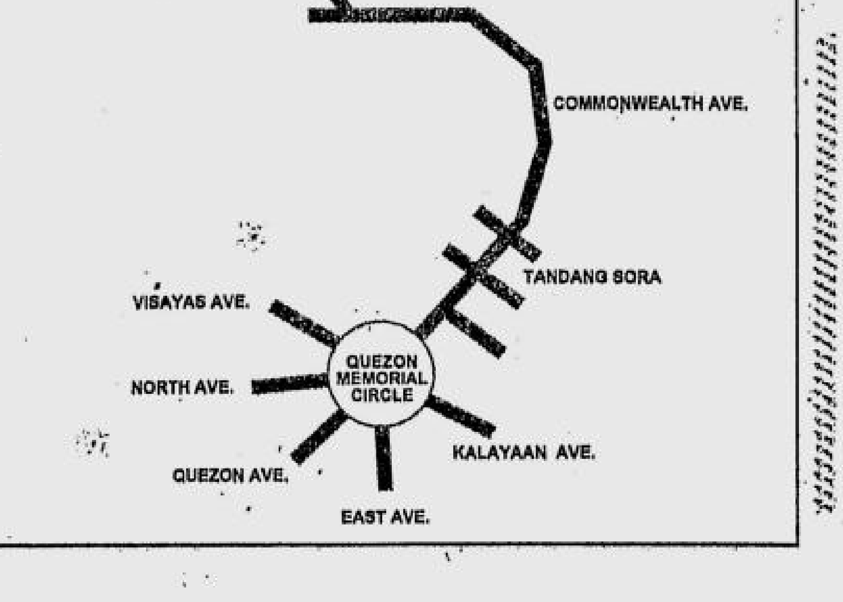

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1	13 DAYS
2	THE HOLE
3	OSMOSIS JONES
4	MARITAL RAPE
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6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7	LAST ERUPTION
8	SISID

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	13 DAYS
4	THE HOLE
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	MARITAL RAPE
7	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	FAST & FURIOUS
9	SISID
10	LA VIDA ROSA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9308349

1	LAST ERUPTION
2	THE HOLE
3	MR. NICE GUY
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	SISID
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7	13 DAYS
8	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	FAST & FURIOUS
11	HULI SA AKTO
12	MARITAL RAPE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	THE HOLE
2	13 DAYS
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
5	OSMOSIS JONES
6	FAST & FURIOUS
7	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10	SISID
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	MARITAL RAPE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	13 DAYS
4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
5	OSMOSIS JONES
6	THE HOLE
7	SISID
8	MARITAL RAPE
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10	FAST & FURIOUS
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	ST. FRANCISVILLE

SM TUTUBAN
2514382

1	13 DAYS
2	SISID
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	MARITAL RAPE

dts DIGITAL SOUND

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	THE HOLE
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	MARITAL RAPE
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	13 DAYS
7	OSMOSIS JONES
8	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
9	PRINCESS DIARIES
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	SISID
12	FAST & FURIOUS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THE HOLE
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	13 DAYS
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	LAST ERUPTION
6	HULI SA AKTO
7	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
8	CLOSED
9	SISID
10	MARITAL RAPE

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	SISID

SM CEBU
2313035

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	CROCODILE 2
5	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
6	SISID
7	ORIGINAL SIN

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	HEARTBREAKERS
2	CLOSED
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	CLOSED
8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	ST. FRANCISVILLE
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	SISID
5	MR. NICE GUY
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	SISID

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	13 DAYS
3	OSMOSIS JONES
4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

GLORIETTA 4

1	OSMOSIS JONES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	PRINCESS DIARIES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	13 DAYS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	TOWN & COUNTRY (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	HARD DAYS NIGHT (Limited Release) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE HOLE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	OSMOSIS JONES in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	13 DAYS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MOCCA JAYA LIVE! OCT. 12, 19 & 26 9PM/ MITCH VALDEZ GOLDEN GIRL...DIVAH? OCT. 13, 20 & 27 9 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	13 DAYS THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	OSMOSIS JONES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	HEART BREAKERS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE HOLE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4 GOLD (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	13 DAYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MARITAL RAPE
10	LAST ERUPTION

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	HULI SA AKTO
3	MARITAL RAPE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MARITAL RAPE
3	HULI SA AKTO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 DAYS
5	SISID

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	SISID
2	HULI SA AKTO
3	MARITAL RAPE
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	OSMOSIS JONES
6	13 DAYS
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	13 DAYS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	PLAYING WITH FIRE
3	LAST ERUPTION

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SEX MEDUSA
A	HULI SA AKTO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	SISID
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	THE HOLE
5	HULI SA AKTO
6	MARITAL RAPE
7 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
8 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
9 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE
4 (SDDS)	LAST ERUPTION
5	HULI SA AKTO
6 (DOLBY)	SISID
7 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
8	LA VIDA ROSA
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE
4	HULI SA AKTO
5 (SDDS)	13 DAYS
6	LAST ERUPTION
7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
8	SISID

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	HULI SA AKTO
4	MARITAL RAPE
5 (SDDS)	OSMOSIS JONES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7808

1	HULI SA AKTO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HULI SA AKTO
Lords	MARITAL RAPE
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	THE HOLE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGADO
3	OSMOSIS JONES

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	13 DAYS
3	HULI SA AKTO
4	MARITAL RAPE
5	OSMOSIS JONES

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MARITAL RAPE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HULI SA AKTO

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	MARITAL RAPE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	MARITAL RAPE

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	SISID
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	13 DAYS
2	HUNGER FOR LOVE
3	MARITAL RAPE
4 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	MARITAL RAPE
4	SISID
5	REGING FORCE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	ST. FRANCISVILLE
3	MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SCARY MOVIE
3	SEX MEDUSA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MARITAL RAPE
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (DTS)	MARITAL RAPE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ENEMY AT THE GATES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	SISID

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	ST. FRANCISVILLE
3	HEART BREAKER
4	FAST & FURIOUS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	RESERVE
4 (DTS EX)	ST. FRANCISVILLE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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THX	13 DAYS
2	13 DAYS
3	THE HOLE
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
7	FAST & FURIOUS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MARITAL RAPE
10	LAST ERUPTION

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	13 DAYS
2	THE HOLE
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	HARD DAY'S NIGHT

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	RESERVE
7	13 DAYS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	13 DAYS
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	SISID

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	FINDING FORRESTER
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	RUSH HOUR 2

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MARITAL RAPE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LAST ERUPTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HULI SA AKTO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	RED DIARIES / ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
ODEON	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ODEON-2	LAST ERUPTION
ROBEN	MARITAL RAPE
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JURASIC PARK 3 / STICK MAN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MARITAL RAPE
REMAR	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
REMAR-2	SISID

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MR. NICE GUY
CINEMA-2	SISID
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	HULI SA AKTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE HOLE
CINEMA-14	LAST ERUPTION
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	HEARTBREAKERS
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-4	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
CINEMA-5	THE HOLE
CINEMA-6	13 DAYS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	IKAW LAMANG
CINEMA-2	LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
CINEMA-4	KALARO

'Batang Kampeon' finals

"BATANG Kampeon" holds its grand finals on Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Music Museum.

A popular venue for discovering new child singing talents aged 8 to 12, "Batang Kampeon" is hosted by Asia's Queen of Songs, Pilita Corrales, and funnyman Carding Castro.

This national children singing star search, which is aired every Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m. on RPN, is a brainchild of Ultimate Entertainment Inc., a pioneer in producing live musical events on radio and TV.

Vying for the distinction of being the first champion of "Batang Kampeon" are six extremely talented kids who emerged winners in past monthly finals, namely: Almira Cercado (April), Marmulo Buit Jr. (May), Juan Paolo Azul (June), Majella Protacio (July), Klarise de Guzman (August), and Charice Pempengco (September).

Tennis . . .

(From page A31)

and Ruffles potato chips.

"Game Ka Na Ba" had excellent bar hosts. I allow myself to have a full dinner, especially when I know that taping will last beyond midnight. As long as I eat a substantial yet healthy meal, I no longer have a heavy midnight snack.

On our first taping, we had Ratsky's and they had yummy vegetable sticks (carrots, cucumber and singkamas) with an excellent blue cheese dip. They also had delicious pasta, my favorite spaghetti bolognaise.

For our second taping, we had both Red Crabs and Minggoy's.

From the Red Crab buffet, I had really fresh vegetables in their *chopsuey*. Super *sarap!* They also had sweet and sour pork which was the best, the sauce wasn't overpowering and the pork wasn't oily even though it was deep fried (how sinful!). Of course there was crab, but since my crab allergy is unpredictable, I couldn't risk partaking of the tempting crab dishes.

Sinful pasta

From Minggoy's I had some Penne pasta with a terrific tomato-based sauce that is probably their version of marinara. Again, it was a bit sinful because the pasta had a generous mozzarella cheese topping. But the sauce, was just as delicious as my mom's which she makes from fresh tomatoes and basil that she herself grows.

I have to befriend the owners of Minggoy's to get their recipe for the tomato sauce. I'm just grateful that taping ended at almost 5 a.m. so I had enough time to burn all the food I indulged in.

People have been asking me when they can join "Game Ka Na Ba" as studio contestants. In a couple of weeks, ABS-CBN will announce the landline you can call to qualify as a studio contestant.

At most, we'll have celebrity players for just a month. After that, everybody will have the chance to join, except of course if you work for ABS-CBN or you're my relative.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Tennis lesson, gym session and a massage to keep fit

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

HERE'S an update on my attempt at getting physically fit. I've already had one tennis lesson and one session at the gym. I have memberships at two gyms, one in Quezon City very near ABS-CBN and one in the center of Makati.

I was really supposed to go full tilt Monday but because I was just exhausted from my weekend tapings and my live "The Buzz," I treated myself to an aromatherapy massage using a blend of oils for relaxation. I was never a massage fan, but I'm now a convert! It was bliss!

The tennis lesson was just a refresher course since it has been more than a year since I picked up a racket. According to my coach, I have good hand and eye coordination and I have powerful strokes. I just have a tendency to be stiff with my arm movement and my footwork definitely needs to be faster.

My body is a bit sore, but my muscles seem to have sprung back to life because I feel a nice tingle, and I must say I do feel energetic and I have a spring to my step!

The tactless comment of a male friend of mine really did the trick to encourage me to get off my admittedly expanding butt.

On a day that I wore a flattering black (the most forgiving color) button-down shirt dress, that on TV had helped me look sleek (according to the sweet text messages many friends and relatives sent me) he told me, "So how many pounds do you need to lose, 10, 15, or 20?"

Insensitive comment

He claimed it was "*cariño brutal.*" On a jerk-meter, his insensitive comment rates at least an 8.5 for us girls. For the clueless men out there, never tell a girl, don't even insinuate that she's fat. No matter how true it is, when it comes from a guy, it just comes out insensitive and ungentlemanly.

Leave the comments about a woman's weight issues to our best female and gay friends, our moms and sisters and our doctors. Trust me, don't tread on this territory, especially if you still want to be her friend!

Oprah, I know, launched a "Make the Connection" club on her show when she was really into running and dieting. This was the time she even landed on the cover of Vogue magazine, remember?

Rosie O'Donnell launched a "Chub Club" on her show as well.

If I'm successful, maybe we can launch a "fitness support group" via this column. I just have to make sure that I stick to the plan before I start extolling the virtues of exercising. To see is to believe!

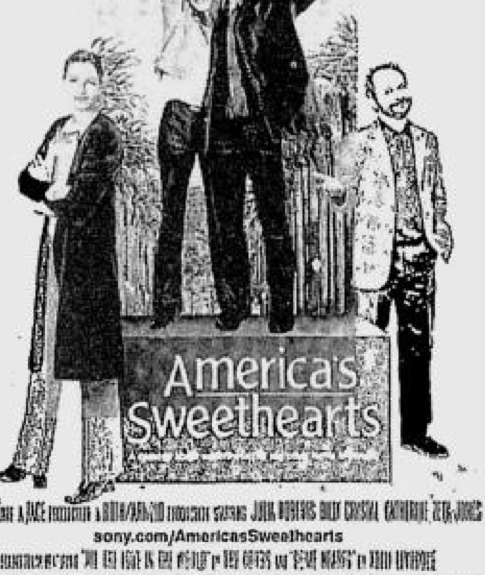
To be fair to the health clubs I now have memberships in, I'll tell you which they are based on my success as well. I don't want them to lose prospective clients just in case I don't lose any weight or appear toned on screen.

Achievable goals

The club manager of one of them said my goals were achievable as long as I did my share in controlling my food intake. From reading this column I'm sure you know just how much I love eating out and trying out new restaurants. Hopefully you'll be reading fewer restaurant recommendations from me, except for those that will be "bar hosts" for my shows.

During our tapings for "Game Ka Na Ba," I've been snacking on bananas and low-fat strawberry yogurt. This is a major change for me. When we used to tape "Kris and Tell" in the studio on Sunday and Tuesday nights, I'd be snacking on Goldilocks caramel popcorn, Dorito's Nacho Cheese tortillas

TENNIS/ A30



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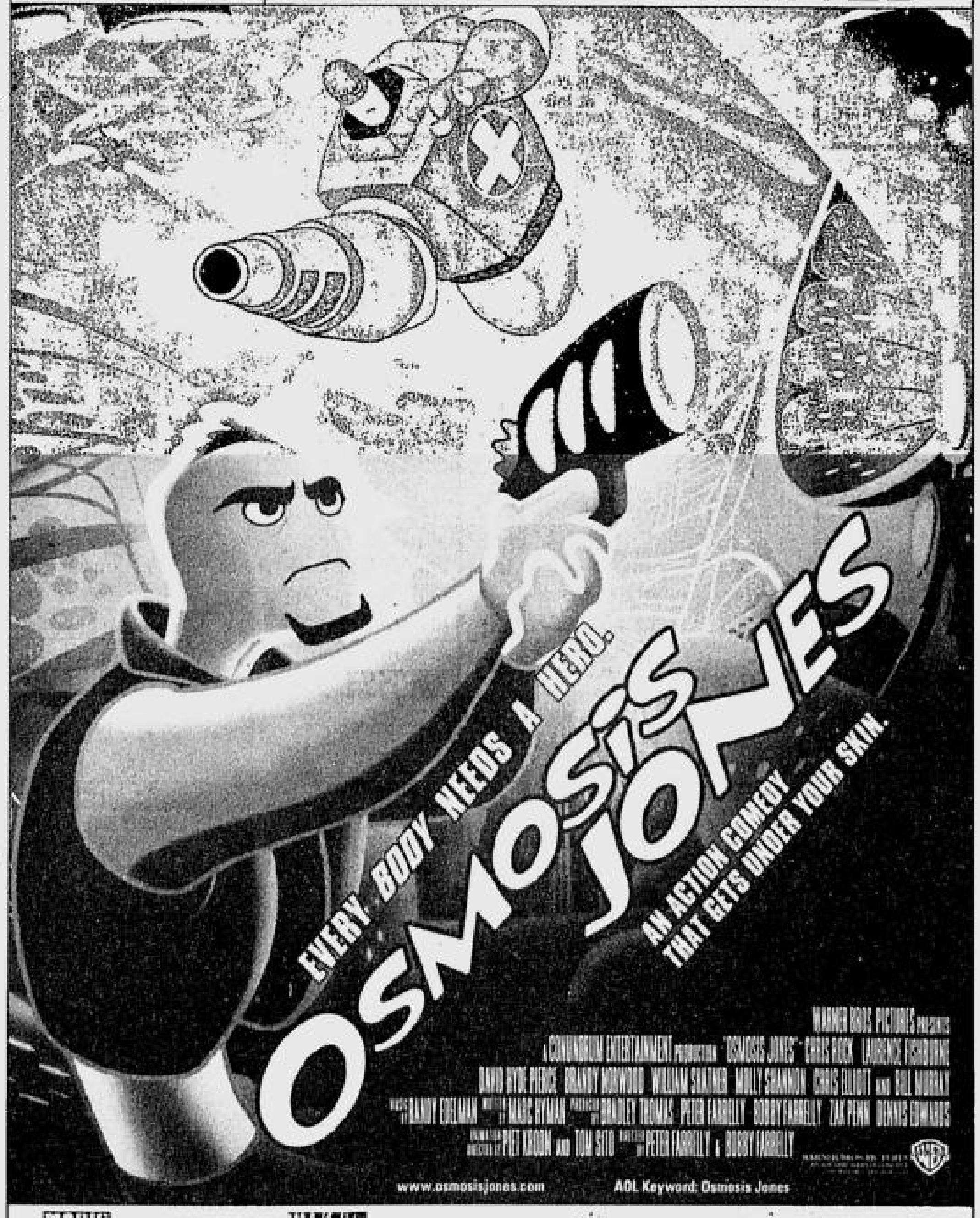
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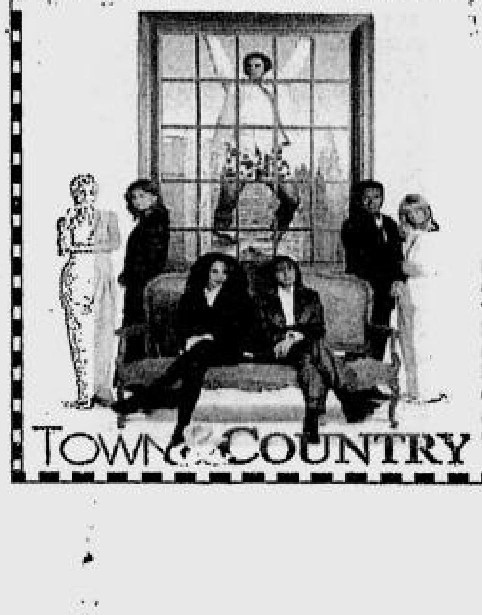

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Bourse seeks gov't help to stop stock mart slump

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said yesterday it was looking into ways to boost share prices sent plunging after the country was named in reports as a haven for terrorists.

The composite index dove below the psychological 1,000-point barrier last Wednesday. Share prices have now lost nearly a fourth of their value since hijacked aircraft slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last month, killing nearly 6,000 people.

"We are now forming a task force," exchange chair Felipe Yap said.

He said the panel would meet with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho "to find a way to help firm up the market, which is what all other countries are doing. Most of these issues will probably be on the basis of incentives, reduction of taxes and all of that."

Yap said foreign investors have been liquidating their portfolios "because of the terrorist attack, and unfortunately, our name, the Philippines, as well as Indonesia and Malaysia were named as part of the countries that the US would like to look into."

The New York Times reported on Wednesday that terrorists tied to Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and based in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, were among likely targets of future covert and overt US actions.

Yap insisted "there is nothing wrong with all the fundamentals" of listed Filipino firms.

"The drop yesterday was nothing but an opportunity to buy because the reason behind it, which is the terrorism, is only an aberration."

But news on the interest rate front was not that supportive of the market.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday maintained its overnight borrowing and lending rates although BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he still saw room for a modest cut in the remaining months of the year.

Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board was not ruling out an additional reduction in policy rates from the current 8.75 percent and 11 percent for overnight borrowing and lending.

The current level of policy interest rates, he said, was a record low for the BSP. The last time the overnight rate slid to 8.75 percent was during the transition to Buenaventura from his predecessor, Gabriel Singson.

"If inflation expectation still trends downward and the US Fed cuts (interest rates) further, then we may have some room to cut rates although it may not be much," said the central bank chief who had met with the Financial Action Task Force in Japan in previous days.

For the meantime, however, the view of local monetary authorities was to keep rates at current levels, which are appropriate for the current inflation situation.

"The Monetary Board views the current stance of monetary policy and level of interest rate appropri-

BOURSE/ B3

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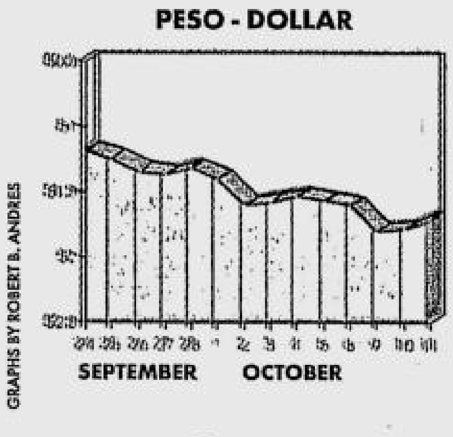

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

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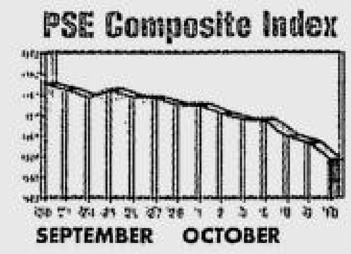
STOCK MARKET

Shares slide anew

STOCKS inched lower at close yesterday due to programmed foreign selling on the uncertain climate spawned by the US-led military action against Afghanistan, traders said.

SHARES/ B6



(See stock market report on Page B4)

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ADB readies $80M in loans for RP projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank is preparing about $80 million in two new loan packages for the Philippines to finance key environmental projects focused on coastal resources and forest management.

The new loans were disclosed yesterday by ADB manager for forestry and natural resources division Mohammad Mannan during the signing of a $598,000 technical assistance provided by the bank to help the country's impoverished coastal communities.

Other environmental loan packages are likewise on the pipeline—including two other projects to address low-income upland communities and solid waste management—but no amount has been firmed up yet.

Mannan said the technical assistance grant signed yesterday was a prelude to a $40-million integrated coastal resources management loan to be coursed by the ADB through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The new technical assistance, which will be sourced from ADB's Japan Special Fund, will fund a policy/institutional and feasibility study to formulate the strategy for the $40-million coastal management project, which, in turn, will be included under the ADB loan program for fiscal year 2003.

In a press statement, ADB said the studies funded by the technical assistance would prepare a program to provide jobs and improve social services for impoverished coastal communities as well as reverse coastal degradation.

"About 60 percent of the country's population and 70 percent of its 1,525 municipalities are in coastal areas, many of which are beset by poverty as well as resource and habitat degradation. Fishing has become an occupation of last resort for the poor," the statement said.

Among the objectives of the studies on coastal management are the following:

- Enhance a national coastal resource management policy framework;
- Formulate a time frame and program for implementing a national policy;
- Analyze the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of national and local agencies, coastal communities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations;
- Estimate the costs and benefits for a proposed integrated coastal resource management program; and
- Conduct a participatory poverty analysis and socioeconomic assessment in coastal communities.

ADB country director for the Philippines Gunther Hecker said: "It is expected that the project will benefit an estimated 150,000 people in 100 small municipalities—many of whom are poor fisher folk and residents of often isolated coastal communities—hopefully a model project for ADB's overarching mandate to reduce poverty in the Philippines."

Aside from the $40-million integrated coastal management program, Mannan also said the ADB was preparing a $35- to $40-million loan for a reforestation project in Mindanao.

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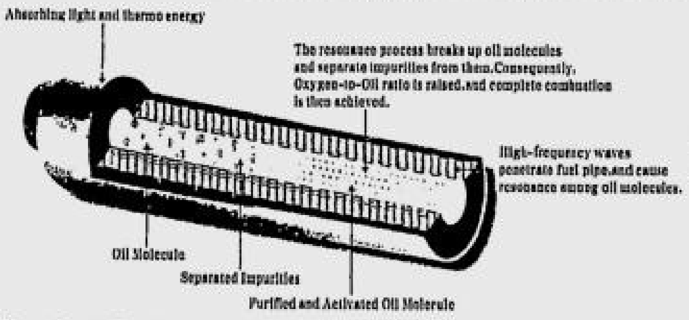
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Crime wave

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

MANILA's already anxious high society has been placed on an even higher worry mode after a series of burglaries and, now, kidnapping hit their gated communities lately.

Despite 24-hour security guards, burglars managed to break into the homes of the Zobels and Rufino-Laurel homes in North Forbes late last month. In both instances, the burglar(s) were surprised by the homeowners, with the unwanted nighttime visitor fleeing, in the Zobel case, after the lady of the house yelled for help.

But the Rufino-Laurel home was not so lucky. According to the grapevine, the lady of the house suffered a head cut that required eight stitches after the startled burglar pushed her, causing her to fall flat on the floor, as he scampered out of the kitchen.

The initial suspects were the construction workers at the Manila Golf Club, as both residences adjoin the golf course.

To placate the nervous homeowners, Manila Golf Club president Rodolfo Cuenca has agreed to a joint perimeter patrol, plus increased perimeter lighting.

But these hair-raising experiences pale in comparison with the reported kidnapping and the subsequent release of a Yuchengco sibling this weekend.

(Note: We initially told a Yuchengco family member that we would not write about this unfortunate incident but since the story had already come out elsewhere, there is no more secrecy to protect.)

The family, understandably, did not wish to discuss the details of the snatching of Michelle Dee-Santos, daughter of Helen Yuchengco and China Bank president Peter Dee, but apparently, the taipan's family decided to keep the police out and handle the crisis all by themselves.

The victim, said to be about 32, is the executive director of the AY Foundation, the philanthropic arm of her grandfather's (taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, hence AY) empire.

Makati's bargains

ARE you tired of being gouged by Makati malls and hotels with P30-P50 parking tickets despite already having paid for their hyped meals?

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But if you are not so lucky to have a rich uncle or a rich friend that would take you along in the members-only clubs, then Fort Boni is the best, open-to-all alternative.

Dencio's, the native grill transplant from Katipunan Road, has been doing roaring business from budget-conscious executives attracted by the Fort's wide, green expanse, a rarity in this traffic and smog-choked metropolis.

(Dencio diners were even treated Tuesday night to celebrities among their midst like singer Buboy Garovillo and his text-addict wife and, in a corner, Narcom's John Campos, wolfing down, along with the native fare, a younger, more curvaceous Mary Ong replacement.)

Even the just-opened Jollibee and Starbucks' by the Fort's flyover have been attracting decent crowd, despite the joints' relative isolation.

Heard through the grapevine

ASB creditors are getting to be desperate. ASB chair Luke Roxas was slapped and physically attacked by a despondent wife who is trying to collect P40 million in placements with the failed developer.

The lady, who has been diagnosed with cancer, was pleading that she be given back at least P500,000 for medical expenses.

Roxas had the good sense not to fight back and simply flee his office through a back door. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Bourse seeks gov't . . .

(From page B1)

ate given actual and expected inflation," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The government believes that the inflation rate, which tracks movements in the prices of basic goods and services, would taper off to as low as 4.5 percent by year's end and would be within the 6- to 7-percent target range for the year.

Next year, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Council said its inflation outlook would remain at a range of 5 to 6 percent despite a recent move to recast economic growth target downward for 2002.

The Monetary Board had decided to cut overnight rates by a quarter-of-a-percentage point last week in reaction to another half-a-percentage point cut in US short-term interest rates to 2.5 percent.

Interpreted by the financial market as nothing but a token cut, the central bank was forced to cut its rates following a much lower inflation rate of 6.1 percent in September from 6.3 percent a month ago.

Still, Buenaventura had said that the central bank would approach any prospective rate cut with prudence.

The central bank chief pointed out, in an earlier interview, that a cut in BSP rates would be pointless since there was no apparent increase in demand for loans, an activity being counted on to spur local economic growth to finance business expansion and consumer spending. *AFP, Clarissa S. Batino*

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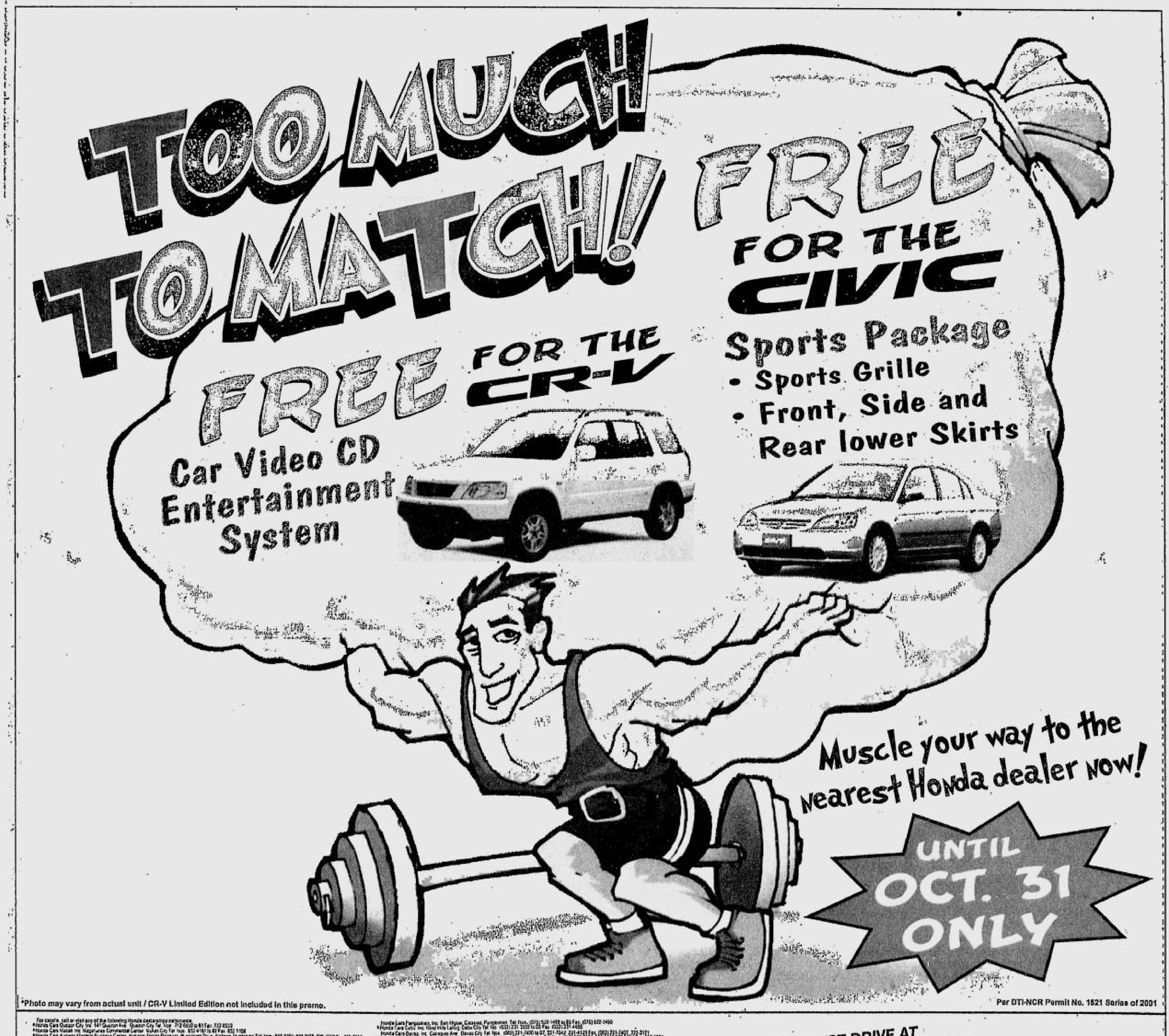
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HONDA

Reynolds seeks creditors' nod on debt-to-equity conversion

CASH-STRAPPED aluminum maker Reynolds Philippines Corp. is seeking to convert majority of its P2.4-billion debt into equity as part of a debt-restructuring plan mapped out to keep the company afloat.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Reynolds spokesperson Olivia Yabut-Misa said the company's board had agreed to negotiate with the creditors on a debt-restructuring plan that would allow it to survive the difficult economic environment.

At the same time, a nine-member management committee was created by the board to review and implement the restructuring plan as well as its business plans and programs, capital expenditures and projects.

The company's biggest creditor-bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, was given six of the nine seats in the management committee while one representative would come from Penta Capital Investment Corp., which was tapped as the company's financial adviser for the debt restructuring.

The two other seats in the committee would be occupied by incumbent Reynolds president Jaime Gonzales and chief finance officer Jorge Navarra.

Misa said a major component of the restructuring plan to be presented to creditors would be the proposed conversion of majority of the company's debt into equity.

"In view thereof, there is a need to increase the company's authorized capital stock from P1 billion to P3 billion," Misa said.

The P3-billion authorized capital will be divided into 3 billion shares with a par value of P1 each.

She said the Reynolds board also approved a resolution to fully pay the company's subscriptions in two subsidiaries—Reynolds Food Services Corp. and Reynolds Business Corp.—as well as to subscribe to additional capital in each unit.

Based on Reynolds' balance sheet as of June 30 this year, the company is saddled with P2.4 billion in total current liabilities, the biggest share of which or P1.45 billion consisted of accounts payable, accrued expenses and other payables. Short-term bank loans amounted to P629.46 million while another P296.9 million represented the current portion of long-term debt.

On the other hand, RPC had some P3.35 billion worth of assets in its books, enough to cover its total liabilities of P2.4 billion.

In a separate statement, Navarra said that if successful, the debt restructuring would allow the company to raise additional working funds to improve operations and weather the crisis.

The company was earlier castigated by the PSE due to its failure to submit its annual report for 2000. But Navarra said Reynolds remained "fundamentally viable" except that its distressed financial condition had made it difficult for the company to hire qualified people to handle its accounting books and financial reports.

Reynolds was established in 1954 by Reynolds International Inc. of the United States. It manufactures and distributes aluminum sheets, foil and extruded sections used in the packaging, container, construction, appliance manufacturing and vehicle manufacturing industries.

Reynolds earlier figured in a price-manipulation scandal uncovered by the PSE. It was accused of artificially supporting the price of its shares in the market in complicity with several brokerage houses. The company decided to resolve the issue through an amicable settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Philtread OKs ₱450-M stock rights offering

DORMANT tire manufacturer Philtread Holdings Corp. has set a P450-million pre-emptive rights offering to raise the cash needed to finance new investments, the company disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

A consortium led by investment firm ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., which has agreed to buy more than 50 percent of the company, will subscribe to the offering of close to 50 million new common shares at P9 each.

The proceeds will be used to finance Philtread's acquisition of a 61.35-percent stake in Net Curricula Inc. and a 10-percent interest in LBC Global Corp.

Other members of the group led by ATR Kim Eng are Francisco Colayco and Motherwell Inc.

ATR Kim Eng will become the single biggest shareholder of Philtread with a 39.42-percent stake. The remaining 10.58 percent will be shared by Colayco and Motherwell.

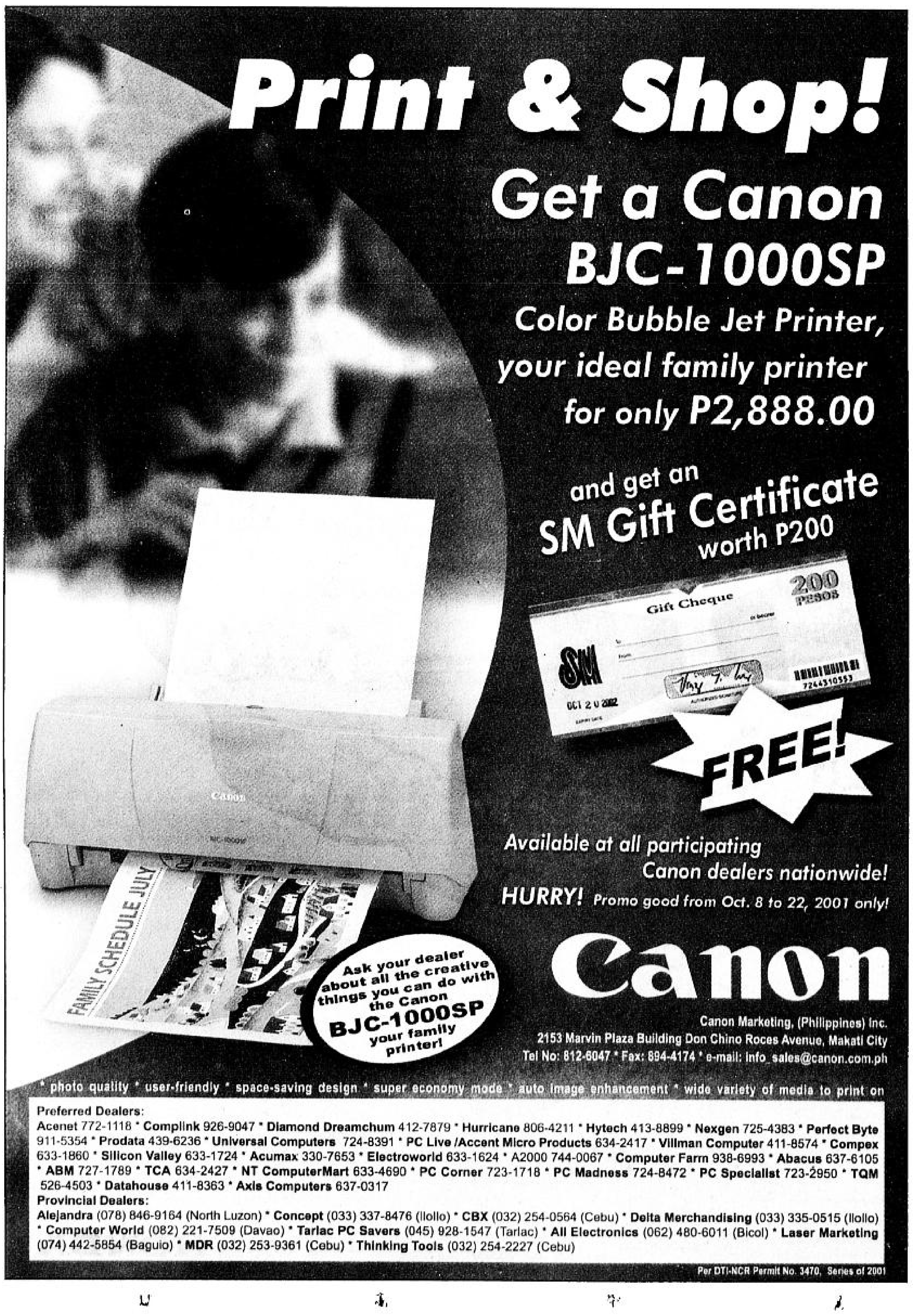
The former major shareholders of Philtread—Philex Mining Corp. and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.—will own 24.75 percent and 13.14 percent, respectively.

The investor group will transfer its 61.35-percent stake in Net Curricula to Philtread for P135.4 million. ATR Kim Eng, for its part, will transfer its 10-percent stake in LBC Global also to Philtread.

The cost of acquiring these two assets will exceed Philtread's total equity by 20 percent. However, the company said in an earlier disclosure that it would still be able to generate a cash reserve of P14.6 million for additional working capital and future investments.

Philtread stopped its tire manufacturing operations in 1994 and spun off its plant and inventories located in Sucat, Muntinlupa, to MSF Tire and Rubber Inc. The property housing the tire plant was transferred to Sucat Land Corp.

Earlier reports said ATR Kim Eng was buying GE Life Insurance Co. Inc., the Philippine subsidiary of GE Capital International Holdings Corp. of the United States.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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3470, Series of 2001

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, October 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	VOLUME	CLOSE
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42	42.5	533,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18.25	18	18	717,600
Global Business Bank Inc.	68	68	68	68	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	178	178	172	178	70,340
Prudential Bank	480	480	480	480	380
Philippine National Bank	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	6,900
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	27.5	29	4,500
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	18.25	17.5	18.25	1,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	25,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	242	240	242	250
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1075	1060	1075	3,620
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	7,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	590	590	590	590	18,600
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	90,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	342.5	345	337.5	340	297,370
Ivantage Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.018	0.016	0.017	39,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22	21.5	21.5	22,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	31.5	31.5	678,300
Petron Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	1,997,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.18	1.24	1.16	1.24	2,974,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	94,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	791,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	484,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	10.75	11	251,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24.5	23.75	24.5	43,000
RFM Corp.	1.94	1.98	1.94	1.94	956,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38	39	38	39	199,100
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	47.5	43	45	664,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	7,594,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	35,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	320,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	11,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	10	9.8	10	3,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.86	0.87	4,020,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	22.5	21	22	571,700
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	400,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.26	714,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	6,200,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,800,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.57	1,060,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.18	2,550,000
Music Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.39	0.39	1,570,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	120,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.2	4	4	54,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	560,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.22	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.76	450,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	135,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	1,250,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.8	452,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.5	583,800
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	187,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9.8	9	9.8	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	3.65	3.75	3.65	3.7	2,283,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	540,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	5,680,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.18	1.08	1.12	8,159,000
City & Land Developers	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	560,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.8	20,138,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.045	0.05	0.045	0.05	300,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	7,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	210,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	3,160,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0024	0.0024	52,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	270,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,743,190	64,176,475.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	95,908,970	277,410,670.00
PRO	38,070,000	115,616,950.00
Mining	63,110,000	910,550.00
OIL	6,500,000	99,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	205,332,160	458,214,045.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	396.39	UP 4.42
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,430.56	DOWN 10.54
PRO	380.67	UP 4.05
Mining	1,041.26	DOWN 6.63
OIL	1.32	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	647.18	UP 2.32
Composite	990.03	DOWN 1.32

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 2,259

CURRENCIES

Oct 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.097815	1.000000	51.7940
Japan	Yen	0.009123	0.008310	0.4304
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594577	1.452500	75.2308
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140754	0.128213	6.6407
Switzerland	Franc	0.674209	0.614137	31.8086
Canada	Dollar	0.700271	0.637877	33.0382
Singapore	Dollar	0.605190	0.551268	28.5524
Australia	Dollar	0.550670	0.501605	25.9801
Bahrain	Dinar	2.912132	2.652661	137.3919
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292712	0.266631	13.8099
Brunei	Dollar	0.603527	0.549753	28.4739
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024521	0.022336	1.1569
UAE	Dirham	0.298969	0.272331	14.1051
Korea	Won	0.000845	0.000770	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.910900	47.1792
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.465736	24.1223
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138866	7.1924
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.413348	21.4089
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066198	3.4287
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022581	1.1696
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000470	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153202	7.9349
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004544	0.2354
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005475	0.2836
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022581	1.1696
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.156604	59.9051

Spain extends $18M in aid, grants to RP

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SPANISH government, through the Spanish agency for international cooperation, yesterday announced that it would extend a total of $18 million in aid and grants to the Philippines in the next three years.

Aranzazu Banon, deputy head of the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines and officer in charge of cooperation affairs, told reporters yesterday that the financial assistance would be geared toward projects concerning poverty alleviation and health.

The Philippines is the principal beneficiary of Spanish assistance and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, comprising 55 percent of the total ODA earmarked for the region. In the third bilateral joint commission on cooperation, Spain granted the Philippines 3.9 billion pesetas or roughly $25 million in assistance between 1998 and 2000.

Under the fourth medium term Philippine development plan, Spain will give priority to sectors that provide basic social needs such as education, health, water, and sectors that contribute to the strengthening and development of the economy such as micro-credit, enterprise, agriculture and tourism. In a statement, the agency said it would also give importance to the preservation and conservation of the Philippines' historical and cultural heritage.

For the next three years, the Spanish agency committed to achieve the following:

- Establish an eye center in the Philippine General Hospital;
- Enhance reproductive health of Muslim women in Maguindanao;
- Assist in the fight against tuberculosis under the Philippine National Tuberculosis Program;
- Support the provision of primary health in Caraga and Cebu;
- Modernize the infrastructure and management of water systems in Camiguin and Vigan;
- Start food security projects in the Caraga region and Cotabato area;
- Grant technical assistance and initiate program for micro-financing;
- Provide a significant number of postgraduate scholarships for technical training and academic study in Spain;
- Establish a training program in cooperation with the University of the Philippines for the preservation and restoration of paintings and other works of art;
- Grant technical assistance to the National Commission for culture and the arts in order to create guidelines and references for the restoration and maintenance of Philippine historical and cultural monuments;
- Rehabilitate the Padre Jose Burgos Museum in Vigan;
- Continue the modernization of the Philippines national archives in Manila.

Fishing company to produce, export canned sardines

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEA Gold Corp., one of the country's biggest commercial fishing companies, has invested an initial P500 million for the development of an export-quality Filipino branded canned sardines.

This was revealed by Sea Gold president William Tiu Lim, who boasted that his company's "Mega Sardines" brand would jack up its market share from 5 percent to more than 30 percent in the next 12 months.

Lim said Sea Gold, through its subsidiary Mega Fishing Corp., pumped in half a billion pesos since 1995 to beef up its commercial fishing fleet, put up a canning factory, an ice plant and a pier in Zamboanga.

Ligo and Young's Town sardines currently dominate the fiercely competitive sardines market. There are more than 20 competing brands in this market.

Lim said Sea Gold, which supplies 90 percent of the fish used by canneries in Navotas and Zamboanga, decided to go into canned sardines because its virtual monopoly of the raw material for canned sardines would give it an edge in the crowded industry. "We have the first crack in getting the quality fish for our canned sardines. We are also the only sardine cannery which is fully integrated," Lim said.

But instead of putting up its cannery in Navotas, Lim said Sea Gold established its factory in Zamboanga to cut down the lag time between the catching and the canning of the fish from 72 hours to 12 hours to ensure the freshness of its products.

With a quality product and an aggressive pricing strategy, Lim expressed confidence that Filipino consumers would realize that not all sardines are the same. Lim said the government has shown strong interest in pushing the development of canned sardines as one of the country's prime exports to compete with leading Asean canned fish makers such as Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. Lim said Mega sardines will be exported to the US, Canada and Middle East.

DBP taps $250-M JBIC facility

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority have given Development Bank of the Philippines the clearance to tap a $250-million facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, DBP president and chief executive Remedios Macalincag said the funds would be released before yearend. It will be used to finance DBP's wholesale and retail lending operations.

The $250-million facility from JBIC is hoped to boost DBP's funds for lending to small and medium-sized enterprises and large-scale companies engaged in manufacturing, construction and infrastructure, power, utilities, transportation and information technology.

Macalincag also announced that DBP's net income reached P1.2 billion for the first nine months of the year, higher than the P766 million in profit recorded in the same period last year.

The bank should easily reach its net target of P1.6 billion this year "barring unforeseen circumstances," Macalincag said.

DBP recently got the approval to remit to the national government only 25 percent of its total net income, instead of the 50 percent required on all government owned and controlled corporations, plus its loan loss provisions in order to improve its capital base, which stands at P12.5 billion.

She explained that DBP has to maintain a good capital to risk assets ratio, which was currently at 20 percent or higher than the industry level of 17 percent and substantially above the 10 percent requirement of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Loans account for the bulk of risk assets.

The government bank has one of the lowest past due rates in the industry at 9.65 percent as of August this year.

Elena R. Torrijos

Smart puts up GSM switch in Lucena

SMART Communications Inc. has fired up its third GSM (global system for mobile communications) switch in a month in Lucena City to boost its network capacity in Southern Luzon and parts of the Bicol region by 350,000 subscribers.

The new switch is located at the PLDT compound in Lucena City, Quezon, and covers the provinces of Quezon, Laguna, Romblon, Albay, Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte.

Mobile traffic in the region was being processed through Smart's switch in Tambo, Metro Manila, before the Lucena switch became fully operational.

Lucena City is considered as one of the growth centers in the Southeast Calabarzon Corridor. It serves as the gateway to Southern Tagalog, Metro Manila and other parts of mainland Luzon from the Bicol Region and the island provinces of Marinduque, Masbate, Palawan and Romblon.

Abigail L. Ho

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Limestone mining firm suspends operations

By Lino Gilbert K. Parone Jr. and Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The lone mining company in Siquijor and its sister firm and marketing arm are shutting down their operations for six months starting Oct. 15 due to heavy losses.

For Siquijornons, the closure of the Lazi Bay Resource Development Inc. (LBRDI) and its sister company, Goodyield Resource Development, means a bleak future especially for the 120 workers who will be displaced.

Joseph Lo, president of both the LBRDI and the GRDI, said the companies were forced to shut down after recent developments in the cement industry made their limestone more expensive than those offered by their competitors, causing "tremendous losses" to the company.

The LBRDI produces the limestone while its sister company exports the limestone to Green Island Cement Corp. in Hong Kong. The limestone is processed to produce clinker, the principal raw material for cement manufacturing.

Lo said LBRDI raw materials cost $10 more per ton compared to the clinker made in Japan.

Lo said both companies planned to temporarily stop their operations as early as February. It was announced to their employees last August.

With a capital of P750 million, the LBRDI and the GRDI employ a total of 120 employees.

In a letter to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) in Cebu City, LBRDI administrator Angelito Dizon said the company would retain at least seven workers and re-hire some of the terminated workers as contractual laborers to maintain the company's physical assets, including its nursery.

"Line managers will be terminated by end-October, from which time, the company operations will be limited to maintenance and preservation of assets, as well as of tending of seedlings and saplings," Dizon said in his formal notice for suspension of operations sent to Augustus Momongan, DENR-7 director.

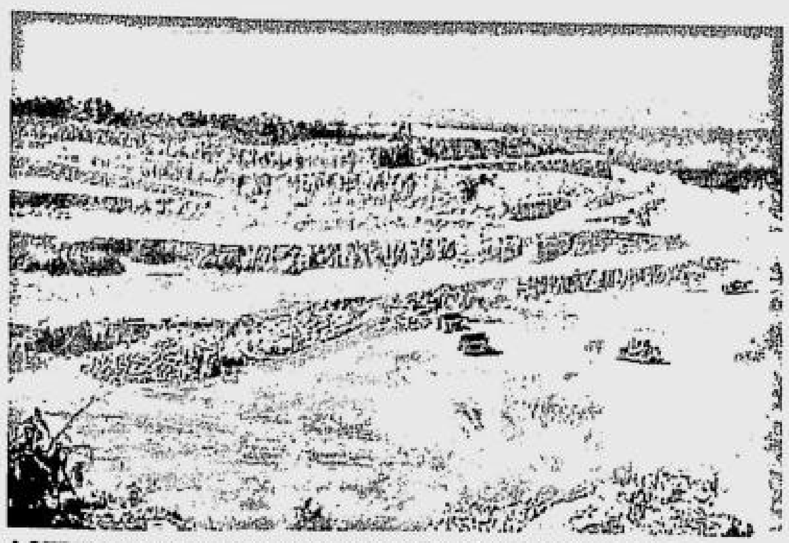
But Roger De Dios, DENR-Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB-7) chief research specialist, said the company intended to resume operations when the market improves. The mine is said to be the single biggest income contributor to the towns of Lazi and Maria, as well as the entire Siquijor. About 95 percent of the mine's total workforce come from the surrounding towns of Siquijor.

The company has DENR permit to explore, develop and commercially utilize limestone and silica deposits within a 392-hectare area in the towns of Lazi and Maria.

The mine is located in Barangay Simacolong, Lazi, Siquijor. It is engaged in open cast mining, producing 3,000 metric tons of limestone per day.

Its port is capable of handling ocean-going Panamax-sized vessels.

The company initially projected its mine reserves to last for 30 years.



A STRIP MINING AREA IN SIQUIJOR. The province's lone mining company and its sister firm and marketing arm are shutting down for six months starting Oct. 15 due to heavy losses.

RISING IMPORTS

Resin producers reduce output

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL makers of plastic resins have drastically cut down their output over the last eight months due to the government's failure to curb the rising shipment of imported resins smuggled through customs bonded warehouses.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP) reported that its members were utilizing only 38 percent of their capacity as of August this year, down from 56 percent in January this year.

But while local producers were suffering from a slowdown in output and sales, Roxas said imports of plastic resins have increased dramatically during the last eight months—from a range of 21 percent to 35 percent in January this year to 48 percent to 66 percent in August this year.

Most of these shipments were coursed through customs bonded warehouses where traders are exempted from paying duties as an incentive for their exports. But the APMP claimed that a sizable portion of the plastic resins in these restricted warehouses have found their way to the domestic market.

Aside from the warehouse imports, the APMP said that most of the plastic resin imports (used as substitutes for APMP's products such as polyethylene and polypropylene) were being misdeclared to avail of lower duties of only 5 percent compared with their actual duty of 15 percent.

Roxas concurred with the APMP that the imports of plastic resins were unusually high, especially those made through the bonded warehouses.

He said the government has agreed to tighten its rules on the importation of plastic resins by including APMP members in the Bureau of Customs' working group against smuggling. The government will also require pre-shipment certification on plastic resin imports with duties below 5 percent and mandate traders to get Board of Investments clearance that the products they are bringing in are not manufactured locally.

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HINT: Check out Corporate Affairs Issue of *All About Elan* on Saturday, October 13, for My Wish Box.

RP, S. Korea to renegotiate air rights deal

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY is set to renegotiate its air rights agreement with Korea in late November or early December with the objective of increasing the flight frequencies between the two countries.

Civil Aeronautics Board deputy executive director Carmelo Arcilla said in an interview that there was a need for the country to ask for added flights per week in view of the increasing number of Koreans visiting the country.

"Korea has a fully utilized capacity entitlement and it has a high load factor. The last agreement was signed in the late 1990s. We've already asked Korea and they are willing (to renegotiate)," he said.

Having a fully utilized capacity entitlement means that a country uses all its weekly allotted flights. Load factor pertains to the number of passengers that a country's flag carrier brings in to another country as compared with its total entitlement.

Arcilla said a load factor of at least 70 percent was already good enough for a country to ask for additional entitlements.

The existing Philippines-Korea air rights agreement allows 13 flights weekly from Manila to Korea and vice versa.

This agreement is based on the number of flights and frequencies per week, and is not limited to aircraft type, Asiana Airlines general manager Rene Philip Banzon told the INQUIRER.

Since the agreement is based on the number of flights per week and not on the number of seats, an airline could service all of its allotments regardless of aircraft type.

"Currently, PAL (Philippine Airlines) is servicing all the 13 flights, but this is not enough. (The Philippines) has to ask for additional frequencies from Korea," he said.

Reexamining HR's role in business

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

IN THE Great Book as well as in Greek Mythology, the mountains have always been the symbol of the seat of the gods' wisdom. Prophets and masters are known to spend days and nights in reflection and contemplation on some mountains away from the maddening crowds of the boisterous, the loud and the vexatious. Those who have missions to touch other lives, by teaching or by leading, do need to be empowered every now and then, by vital messages from the higher sources of strength and inspirations.

Thus, we, the thousand or so HR managers of some of the country's biggest companies are staying here in Baguio for the next three days, in the midst of pine trees and flowers, among the spirits of our ancestors and their gods, in the nature that nurtures us with life and beauty, power and the ability to love and care.

Who are we?

The first crucial issue that we address in our contemplation is our own projection of who we are. In the light of contemporary realities, what role should we play relative to our employees? Is it enough that we hire them and administer their salaries? Are we responsible for their training and development? Are we to take an active role in their career development? Should we stand up for them in case they are oppressed?

Are we the mere executioners when CEOs and COOs wish to fire workers they hate? Are we to implement measures only in pursuit of profit and at the expense of human dignity and welfare? Or should we fight for causes higher than business objectives? What then is our reason for being in the HR profession?

Back to basics

Before we confront macro issues and higher perspectives, we, HR practitioners, should perhaps reexamine first our own capabilities, core competencies and the values we add to business management and corporate decision-making. We should look at ourselves and our specific contributions to manufacturing, selling and distribution of products and services.

Thus, we ask ourselves: Are we the best recruiters and wage and benefit managers? Are we excelling in training and development of our managers and people? Are we doing well in employee relations and communications? Do we promote industrial peace and productivity? Do we promote the health, safety and security of our people? Do we strategize and leverage the knowledge of our people to build the organization?

Business allies

Another issue for contemplation is HR's relationship to business. Are we in HR being perceived as business partners and reliable allies in the pursuit of business objectives? Do we support sales and distribution? Do we make it easy for operations to do their job? Do we motivate productivity and reward performance?

Are we in HR being considered helps and not hindrances to business success? Are we adding value to the quality of our goods and services? Do we make executives and other partners feel good in doing business with us?

Preferred consultants

Do our COOs and CEOs come to us, instead of outside consultants, for advice? Are our opinions sought by our functional counterparts in manufacturing, sales, marketing, finance, logistics and other units in the corporation?

Is HR being applauded instead of being derided and booed? Are we creating positive impacts on our internal clientele? Do people in the company speak well or ill of HR? What do they say about us?

Solution providers

Is HR deemed part of the problem or a provider of solutions? Are HR professionals in the company getting the respect they deserve? Are they rewarded and well recognized? Is HR seen as a boon or a bane to operations?

When there is an inter-functional task force and committee created to address a problem, is HR playing an essential role? Are we seen as part of the critical few or are we consigned among the trivial many?

Nurturer of careers

Is HR being recognized as the protector of job security or as executioner of livelihoods? Do employees look at HR as a developer of careers and a staunch advocate for the continuing quantum leaps in knowledge and careers?

Does HR really value the people's professions and career development? Are there tangible evidence to prove this? Can HR be relied upon to provide clear career paths and succession plans? Can the organization trust that HR will always be ready to provide a cadre of ready successors in case of vacancy?

Strategic partners

Is the top HR executive or director considered a strategic partner to the COO and CEO in carving out the future of the company? Does HR play a crucial role in the formulation of the corporate vision and mission? Are critical executive hiring and staff movements done with HR's meaningful participation?

When vital decisions are made, is HR listened to? And when difficult business problems arise, does HR provide solutions that affect the organization and its people? In short, does HR acquire that degree of importance and credibility that inspires respect by no less than the top management and owners of the business?

Back from the oasis

It is thus apropos that we have chosen "Breakthroughs @ Convergence" as our theme for our 38th HR National Convention, for in coming together and in coming home to our inner selves, we achieve breakthroughs and quantum leaps in our consciousness and total development. It is also fitting that we hold this annual retreat in Baguio, an oasis for many of us who had been wounded and battered by the cruel vicissitudes attendant to our jobs.

When we come down to Manila on Sunday, we shall have gained a better understanding of ourselves as we try to make a truly meaningful difference in the lives of our corporations and people. Starting Monday, we shall be better.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: Josephus.jimenez-@pcppi.com.ph.)

Shares slide anew

(From page B1)

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index set a 10-year record low when it ended down 1.32 points, or 0.1 percent, to 990.03, its lowest close since the Nov. 11, 1991 level of 985.475. Wednesday, the index fell 4.1 percent. The index has given up 9.6 percent since Oct. 5.

"Foreign investors are liquidating investments in riskier emerging markets like the Philippines," said Equitable-PCI Bank fund manager Edison Yap.

Yap said the Philippine market appears to be among the worst performers in Asia, as local shares incurred losses while other regional markets posted strong gains Thursday. AP

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APEC SUMMIT

War on terror to obscure free trade agenda

BEIJING—When the leaders of 21 Pacific rim economies meet in China's commercial center of Shanghai next week, their free trade agenda will be overshadowed by global efforts to combat terrorism.

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum gathering in the eastern city begins on Monday, with the ninth informal summit of Apec leaders scheduled for Oct. 20 and 21.

This will place it three weeks before a World Trade Organization meeting in Qatar, which will attempt to launch a new round of global trade talks, but far more importantly, it comes six weeks after the worst act of terrorism in history.

"I think it is inevitable that terrorism will dominate the meeting," said Alex Oxley, chair of the Australian Apec Study Center at Melbourne's Monash University.

China itself has said the Apec summit, bringing together world leaders including US President George W. Bush, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, will "show its concern over terrorism in a proper form."

This is not just because the negative economic impact of the terrorist attacks and the US-led counter-strikes will hit right at the core of what Apec is all about.

Crucially, the Apec summit has suddenly found itself the most high-powered global gathering since the war on terror began.

"The meeting is going to be the first major international meeting after the Sept. 11 incident and the US military action," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi said earlier this week.

"I believe relevant members will take this opportunity to exchange views on the latest situation and make clear their common position," he said.

That could leave little time to talk about the WTO ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, to be held from Nov. 9 to 13.

Free-trade advocates have argued a new round of trade talks are needed more urgently than ever to help the global economy deal with upcoming challenges.

But with the world's attention focused on terrorism, rhetorical backing for the Doha discussions may be all Apec members can provide next week, according to observers.

"The bottom line is moral support for the global trade talks, and everything above the bottom line will be welcome," said Li Kui-Wai, coordinator of Hong Kong City University's Apec Study Center. *AFP*

Apec gets chance to shake off 'A Perfect Excuse to Chat' tag

SINGAPORE—Derided by detractors as standing for "A Perfect Excuse to Chat," the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum has a golden opportunity in Shanghai next week to show it is more than a toothless talking shop.

The annual summit of the 21-economy forum will be the most prominent international gathering since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, giving Apec the chance to respond with both substance and symbolism to the damage done to the world economy.

Apec does not pull any macro-economic levers, but a successful summit could help cushion the global downturn by shoring up fragile business and consumer confidence.

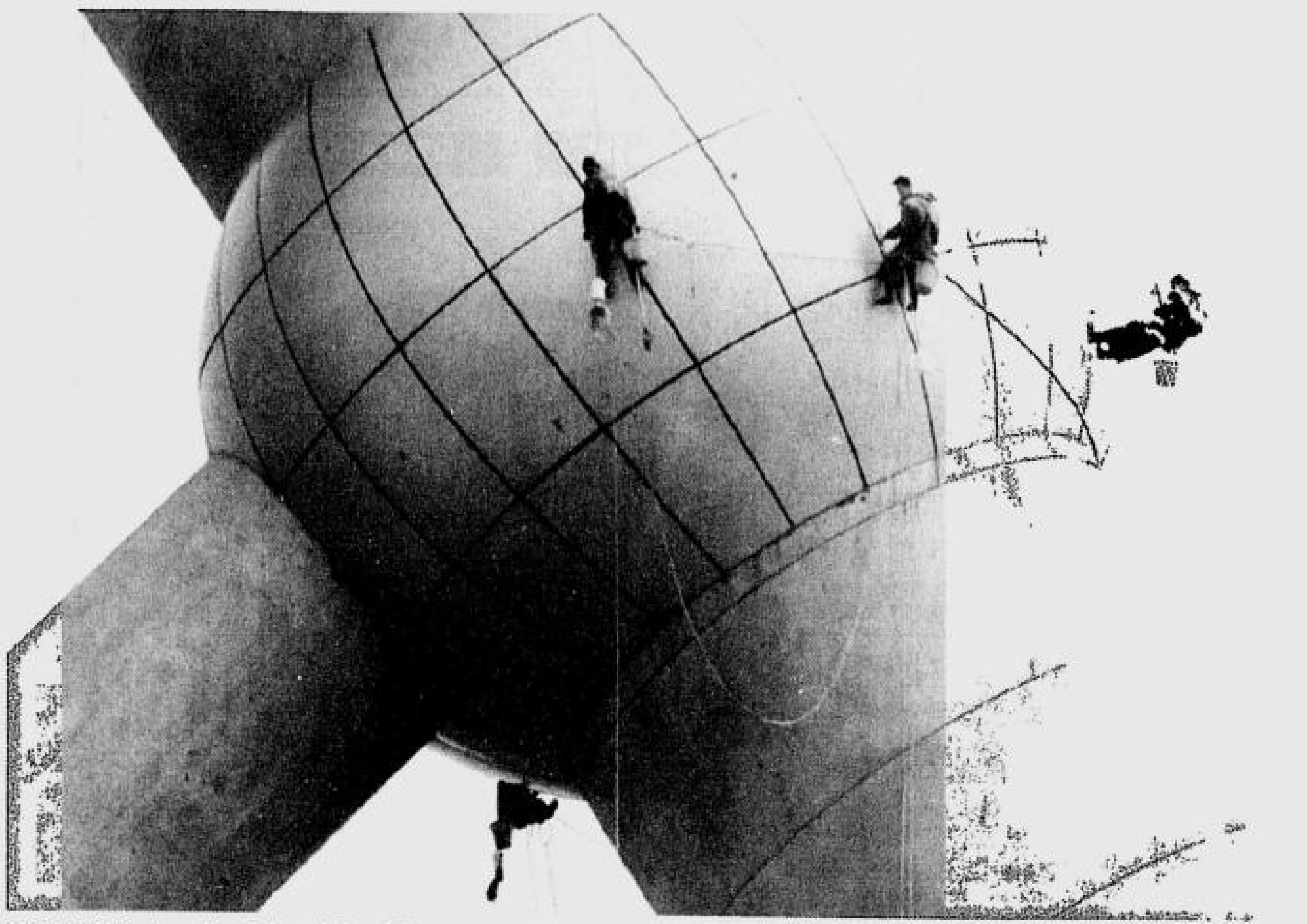
"By rendering economic globalization more efficient and more just, Apec's leaders can help defeat those who would challenge the modern order with mediaeval terror," said Richard Feinberg, a director of the Apec Study Center at the University of California, San Diego.

The centerpiece of the Oct. 20 to 21 summit will be an agreement to counter terrorism through closer cooperation in areas such as money laundering, the security of air travel and shipping, and energy reserves, according to Apec officials.

Such practical nitty-gritty work, worthy but often not newsworthy, plays to the strengths of Apec, a 12-year-old organization with a mission to liberalize trade and investment.

But, perhaps more importantly, Shanghai will provide a stage for leaders to reaffirm their commitment to globalization at a time when some commentators see a risk of firms and governments instinctively turning inward as a result of the attacks.

"The appetite for forging new cross-border alliances may diminish in an increasingly unstable world. Risk aversion may take on ever-greater importance," wrote Stephen Roach, chief global economist at US investment bank Morgan Stanley. *Reuters*



WORKERS clean the Oriental Pearl Tower to await the upcoming Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shanghai later this month.
AP

WTO to focus on developing nations

SINGAPORE—A request by developing countries to be treated differently from wealthier nations under World Trade Organization rules will be in the spotlight at a WTO meeting in Singapore this weekend.

Developing countries say they need more flexible trade rules in the WTO in order to encourage economic development.

The WTO General Council meeting in Geneva this week, proposed a package of measures to address developing countries' concerns.

The proposal "will provide a good basis for the ministers' discussions at the meeting" in Singapore, the city-state's Ministry of Trade and Industry said in a statement Thursday.

The WTO General Council said its proposal offered "substantial and differential treatment for developing countries," and that this should be a "broad and integral part of all elements" of future trade talks.

The Singapore ministry statement said that agricultural issues—a major sticking point in WTO negotiations—and environmental issues would also be on the agenda for the meeting this weekend, along with a draft statement for the launch of a new round of WTO talks. *AP*

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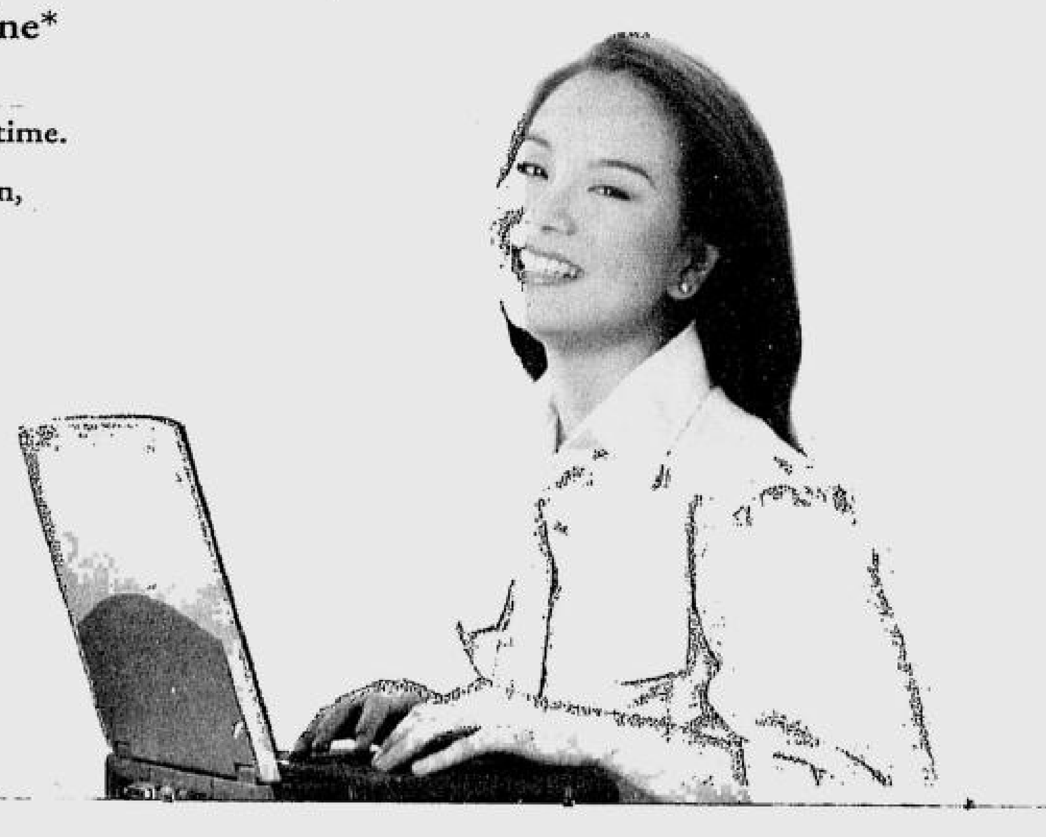

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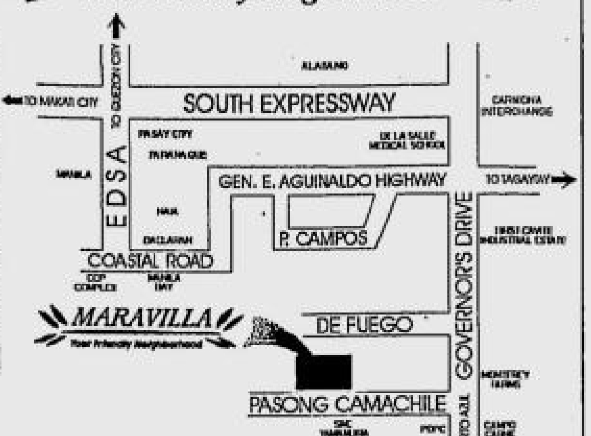

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New Mla Along Hemady Cor Lot 2000m² P20Th 531-0651

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FOREST HILLS 446m² 4121825•09177914366

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OTHER AREAS

TAGUIG 400m² 9282497

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 3BR2TB 1.7M 8428853

MANDALUYONG

Various Mandaluyong Townhses • 534-6610 Jojo

Various Wack-Wack Condo 534-6610 • Jojo

PASIG

3BR •Emerald Mansion• 5.5M 641-1092, 0919-4032997

•Alexandra Units•
3BR F&FF 2Grg 216-250m² 641-1092 • 0919-4032997

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PARC Chateau 3BR 217sqm Facing East Olty 844-3966

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SAN JUAN

G'hills LPL 1BR FF P20T 1Beverly 3BR P25T 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

OTHER AREAS

Alexandra Condo 3BR Unit Lease/Sale • 0919-4032997

MEMORIAL LOT

Him Pil 4 lots 9296974

RESORT

PansolHotspringP7M 7767507

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4000M Beside SM City Alng Edsa Call 928-1469

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LAS PINAS

Planet St., Delnor Subd nr. RoyalSouth Subd. Contact Mr. Ger or Cely Dizon

MANDALUYONG

2BR 10T; 1BR 8T; Studio 6T Boni No Car New 373-0587

QUEZON CITY

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78 11th Ave Cubao4272560

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•WANTED TO LEASE•
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MITSUBISHI

'76 Mdl L-Type Lancer Saturn Engine Txt 0917-4602171

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HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

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MB H-Ace L3 Urvan 8257135

STAREX L300 CARS 7268386

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BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

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others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

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8390004

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CARE GIVER T5280722

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Urgent:Ofc Staff m/f 18-45y/o Lokk for Daniel 9134470

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased Carmen F. Cervantes has been extra-judicially settled by her heirs on 21 Sept. 2001, as per Doc. 5534, Page 8, Book CIII, Series of 2001 of Notary Public Marcelino J. Dy of Manila (PDI-Sept.28,Oct.5&12,2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO C. CANLAPAN of Mandaluyong City who died on January 31, 2001, has been extrajudicially settled by and among his legal heirs and is entered as an official document in the notarial register of Angelina T. Santos, notary public of New Jersey, United State of America on July 30, 2001 with corresponding certificate of authentication by the consulate general of the Philippines in New York, New York, United States of America Joseph Gerard B. Angeles, Consul, Foreign Service of the Philippines. (PDI- Oct. 5, Oct. 12, & 19 2001.)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FRUCTUOSO SEDUTAN has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 465; Page No. 93; Book No. VI; Series of 2001 of Notary Public Jovito M. Salvador of Muntinlupa City. (PDI-Sept.28, Oct. 5 & 12, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the late HECTOR S. MORENO Sr. has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 185 Page No. 038 Book I Series 2001 of Not. Pub. Grace Cassandra Alethela L. Alfafara of Makati (PDI-Oct. 12,19 & 26,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE LOSS OF ACR#E057481 AND ICR#182959 ISSUED TO LUZ NG BY THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION PDI-OCT. 12 & 19, 2001

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day.

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel Nos: 911-6001 local 5434 • 913-1175
AFP Website. http://www.armedforces.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The AFPLC Bids and Awards Committee will conduct a public bidding for the procurement of various Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) Equipment with an approved budget of P50M.

Eligibility and Bid Documents can be obtained at the Secretariat, AFPLC BAC from **October 22 to 26, 2001** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500.00.**

A pre-bid conference for the items mentioned above will be held on **October 30, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Dapa Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **November 12, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at Dapa Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City followed by the Opening of Bids at 2:00 p.m.

The AFP Logistics Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid and to award the contract to the lowest calculated responsive bid as determined by the AFPLC Bids & Awards Committee.

(Sgd.) COLONEL REYNALDO S. RAMIREZ (GSC) PAF
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 12 & 13, 2001)

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following subscriptions of shares of stocks in **Vibrant Manufacturing Co., Inc.** (the "Company") are delinquent:

Shareholder	No. of Shares	Amount Due
REMEDIOS L. RODRIGUEZ	1,750	P656,250
ALAIDA P. TABIN	1,750	656,250

The Board of Directors of the Company in a resolution dated October 2, 2001 has ordered the sale of those delinquent stocks in a public auction to be held on **November 5, 2001** at 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Room of the law office of Picazo Buyco Tan Fider & Santos at the 8th Floor, Singapore Airlines Building, 136 H. V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City in accordance with Section 68 of the Corporation Code, viz:

"Unless the delinquent stockholder pays to the corporation, on or before the date specified for the sale of the delinquent stock, the balance due on his subscription, plus accrued interest costs of advertisement and expenses of sale, or unless the board of directors otherwise orders, said delinquent stock shall be sold at public auction to such bidder who shall offer to pay the full amount of the balance on the subscription together with accrued interest, costs of advertisement and expenses of sale, for the smallest number of shares or fraction of a share."

By order of the Board of Directors
October 4, 2001, Parañaque City

VIBRANT MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2001)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SECRETARY/CLERK

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate, computer literate
- Good written communication skills
- Pleasing personality, honest, industrious and with Good Moral Character

Please send Bio-Data w/ Computer Address & Contact No., with 2"x 2" photo, Transcript of Records & NBI Clearance.

ALCOO REALTY CORPORATION
ALCOO Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
7th Judicial Region
Branch 33
Dumaguete City

BOSTON FINANCE and INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-versus-
SPS. ROSELLER and CRISTINA FORTIN,
Defendants.
x .... /

CIVIL CASE NO 12596
for
COLLECTION OF SUM OF MONEY

ORDER

As prayed for and for reasons stated therein, the motion is granted
SO ORDERED
In Camera, 22 September 2000 in the City of Dumaguete, Philippines.

(Sgd.) FE LUALHATI D. BUSTAMANTE
Judge

Copy furnished:
1 Atty Herbert P. Timtim, Suite 302, Third Floor Uymatiao Building, San Jose Street, Dgte City

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
7TH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 33
DUMAGUETE CITY

BOSTON FINANCE & INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-versus-
SPS. ROSELLER FORTIN and CRISTINA FORTIN,
Defendants.
x .... /

CIVIL CASE NO. 12596

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2000, plaintiff filed a complaint for Collection of Sum of Money alleging that:

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff Corporation, by counsel unto this Honorable Court, most respectfully states:

1 That plaintiff is a corporation, duly organized under the existing laws of the Philippines with principal office at Narra Avenue, Bacolod City, and with branch office at Independencia St., Dumaguete City, where all court processes may be served
2 That defendants ROSELLER FORTIN and CRISTINA FORTIN are spouses, both of legal age with residence and postal address at Maslog, Sibulan, Negros Oriental, where at they may be served with summons
3 That on June 16, 1997, defendants obtained a direct loan from the plaintiff in the amount of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY (P218,190.00) PESOS payable on installments for a term of Twenty (20) months. A copy of the Promissory Note is hereto attached and marked as Annex "A".
4 That to secure the fulfillment of the loan obligation defendants executed a Deed of Chattel Mortgage on June 16, 1997. A copy of the Deed of Chattel Mortgage is hereto attached and marked as Annex "B"
5 That due to the failure on the part of the defendants to pay their loan obligation, plaintiff filed an Extrajudicial Foreclosure against the unit offered as collateral before the office of the Provincial Sheriff of Negros Oriental. However said unit was already cannibalized for which reason extrajudicial foreclosure as a remedy cannot be availed of. A copy of the Sheriff's Return of Service is hereto attached and marked as Annex "C"
6 That the condition in the Promissory Note is such that upon default of any installment when due, all the other installments shall become due and payable together with all interest accruing
7 That despite demands defendant have failed to pay and continue to fail to pay the loan obligation up to the present. A copy of the Demand Letter is hereto attached and marked as Annex "D"
8 That defendants total obligation as of March 17, 2000 is THREE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE & 90/100 (P303,725.90) excluding attorney's fees, as shown from the statement of account hereto attached and marked as Annex "E"

WHEREFORE, premises considered it is respectfully prayed that judgment be rendered:

1 Directing the defendants to pay plaintiff the sum of THREE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE & 90/100 (P303,725.90) PESOS plus legal interest and litigation expenses up to the time of actual payment.
2 Directing the defendants to pay attorney's fees in the amount of Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P30,300.00)

Plaintiff prays for such relief and remedies, which may be deemed just and equitable in the premises.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Dumaguete City, Philippines, April 19, 2000

(Sgd.) HERBERT P. TIMTIM
Counsel for Plaintiff
Suite 302 Third Floor Uymatiao Bldg.,
San Jose St., Dumaguete City
IBP No. 481748 12/29/99
PTR No. 7372016 - 1/4/00
Both issued at Dumaguete City

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION

I, JULIET B. GUARIN, of legal age, widow, Filipino and a resident of Sibulan, Negros Oriental Philippines hereby depose and say:

That I am the Branch Manager of Boston Finance and Investment Corporation with business address at Independencia St., Dumaguete City, which is the plaintiff in the above-entitled case

That I have caused the preparation of the foregoing complaint and have read and understood the same and that the allegations contained therein are true and correct to the best of my own personal knowledge

That I have not commenced any other actions, or proceedings involving the same issue in any court, tribunal, or agency of the government

That to the best of my own personal knowledge as the accused-appellant in the above-entitled case, no such actions or proceedings is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of appeals, or any tribunal agency; and

That I should thereafter learn that a similar action or proceedings has been filed or is pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, any tribunal or agency, I undertake to report that fact within five (5) days therefrom to the Court or Agency wherein this pleading and sworn statement (certification) has been filed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of March, 2000 in the City of Dumaguete, Philippines.

(Sgd.) JULIET V. GUARIN
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 30th day of March 2000 in the City of Dumaguete, Philippines, affiant exhibiting to me her Residence Cert. No. 03954290 issued at Dumaguete City, on January 31, 2000

(Sgd.) ATTY. FILOMENO J. GONZALES
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2000
PTR No. 8262503
Issued on 1/20/2001
Dumaguete City
TIN 113-837-933

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2000 an Order has issued by this Court granting the plaintiffs Motion for Publication of Summons

NOW THEREFORE, defendants Sps. Roseller and Cristina Fortin, formerly resident of Maslog, Sibulan, Negros Oriental, and now residing in the United States of America, are hereby required to answer the complaint in the above-entitled case within Sixty (60) days from the last publication, otherwise plaintiff will take judgment against you and demand the relief prayed for in the complaint.

The summons together with the complaint shall be published at the expense of the plaintiff once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of National circulation in the Philippines.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE FE LUALHATI D. BUSTAMANTE, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 21st day of December 2000, at Dumaguete City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) LALAINE J. ERAMES
Clerk of Court V

(PDI – Oct. 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	TAX DECLARATION NUMBERS	DATE UPON W/C THE TAX BECAME DELINQUENT	AMOUNT
1.) MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01374	1992-2001	181,883,388.82
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01375	1992-2001	33,019,044.98
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01376	1992-2001	94,686,071.36
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01377	1992-2001	29,531,758.80
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01378	1992-2001	180,936,472.44
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01379	1992-2001	7,038,820.80
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01380	1992-2001	12,663,728.32
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01385	1992-2001	9,634,990.95
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01387	1992-2001	52,140,816.00
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01386	1992-2001	112,483.80
		SUB-TOTAL	601,647,576.35
2.) METROPLAS Packaging Products	E006-10194	1996-2001	2,947,252.35
	E006-10195	1991-2001	7,645,197.11
	E006-10196	1992-2001	3,699,036.77
	E006-10197	1993-2001	2,202,860.13
	E006-10198	1998-2001	167,340.75
		SUB-TOTAL	16,661,687.11
3.) CLARENCIO YUJUICO	E010-05007	1974-2001	9,655,980.96
	E010-05004	1974-1999	2,935,091.18
		SUB-TOTAL	12,591,072.14
4.) UTTAMS INTERNATIONAL INC.	E009-07992	1994-1995	
	E009-07993	1997-1999	
		2000-2001	1,983,809.72
5.) SEAMANK ENTERPRISES	E012-02278	4th 1991-2001	179,228.33
	E012-02279	4th 1991-2001	31,492.29
	E012-02280	4th 1991-2001	234,625.65
	E012-02281	4th 1991-2001	390,696.75
	E012-02282	1993-2001	256,269.75
	E012-02283	1988-2001	325,775.31
	E012-02284	1994-2001	379,889.55
		SUB-TOTAL	1,797,977.63
6.) VICTORIA EXPORT	E013-02949/50/51	4th 1998-2001	1,537,958.55
7.) AFC Prawn Corporation	E013-02952/53	4th 1998-2001	781,305.05
8.) Diamant Boart Phils. Inc.	E014-00335	4th 1986-2001	91,586.06
	E014-00337	1998-2001	172,469.76
	E014-00340	1998-2001	120,386.37
	E014-00341	1998-2001	386,142.33
	E014-00342	1989-2001	763,840.55
		SUB-TOTAL	1,534,424.52
9.) Ma. Amparo Pascual	E010-06294	1994-2001	901,108.95
10.) A.G. Adriano Furniture	E008-00043/44	1998-2001	851,870.73
11.) Sentosa Park Properties Dev. Corp.	E012-03586/88	3rd 1998-2001	791,620.04
12.) Poly Werke Inc.	E012-02293/94	1994-2001	302,486.49
	E012-02295	1997-2001	114,206.40
		SUB-TOTAL	416,692.89
13.) Ilang-Ilang Valley Homeowners Ass.	E009-07885	1995-2001	262,843.42
14.) Top Side Const. Dev. Corp.	E009-09351	4th 1992-2001	1,115,129.50
15.) Jose Leon Gonzales	TCT No. 41639	1962-2001	14,874,304.90
16.) Francisco Felipe Gonzales II	TCT No. 90760	1962-2001	26,003,276.30

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST OF THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
ICO-CITY TREASURER

(PDI--Oct. 12, 2001)

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. 893-1320 loc. 5115 • Fax 815-4216

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building—Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the ALBAY Rural Electrification Project
Stage II (29 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-172

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 29 Barangays situated in the Province of Albay.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Ignacius M. Corcuera) starting **October 5, 2001**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **October 19, 2001.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **October 25, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **October 30, 2001**, 9:00 a.m. at Alicia Hotel, Legazpi City. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **November 14, 2001** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC- EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI – Oct. 12 & 15, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

03 October 2001

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contract listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
Lingap Para sa Kawal Pilipino Housing Project, Bacolod City/La Carlota City, Negros Occidental	Construction of 10 Housing units	P1.40	C	Small "B" for Building

A. Eligibility Statement forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.
C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
D. Deadline for submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on **October 15, 2001.** Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 16, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.
E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – Oct. 5 & 12, 2001)

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sbma **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY**
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4270/4214/4124 • Fax No. (047) 252-4284

October 11, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA")**, through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

MARINE ATA RADAR FOR VESSEL TRAFFIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
ONE (1) UNIT PATROL BOAT
ONE (1) UNIT RESCUE BOAT
ONE (1) SET DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING MACHINE
SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR ROCK ARMOURING AND IMPROVEMENT OF APPROACH FOUNDATION ON RUNWAY #7 AT SBIA, SBFZ

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Department of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. PCAB License (for Construction Company)
10. List of Product
11. List of Clients
12. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until **5:00 p.m. of October 19, 2001 (Friday)**, at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Room 201, Building 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/ Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.
Secretary, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 12, 13 & 14, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

1898 · 1998 100 KALAYAAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BIR invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply of 32 Units Desktop and 22 Units Laptop Computers.

Checklist of requirements for application of eligibility and bid documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders starting **October 12, 2001** at BAC-IT Secretariat Office, Room 306, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Building, BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The bidding schedule is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE / TIME
• Pre-Bid Conference	**October 19, 2001 / 2:00 PM**
• Bid Proper	**November 7, 2001 / 9:00 AM**

The BIR BAC-IT assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire at BAC-IT Secretariat Office at Room 306, 3rd Floor, RCC Building, BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone numbers 929-2315, 981-7080, 981-7560 and 926-8369 (fax).

(Sgd.) **VICTOR G. BORROMEO**
Assistant Commissioner
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

(PDI--October 12, 2001)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that MSF Tire Rubber, Inc., (the "Corporation"), with SEC Registration No. AS095-000694 issued on January 26, 1995, has filed an Amended Articles of Incorporation shortening the term of its existence up to March 1, 2001. Persons, if there be any, who have claims against the corporation are hereby enjoined to submit their claims with the Securities and Exchange Commission (EDSA, Mandaluyong City) or with **Mr. Fortunato B. Cruz of PricewaterhouseCoopers Financial Advisors, Inc.**, the Corporation's designated Liquidator/Trustee, on or before **27 October 2001** for proper verification of their valid claims.

This will serve as a notice to all parties of the legal dissolution of MSF.

(PDI – Oct. 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: October 12, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 200138405PTMOR for the Construction of Pasto I - Pasto II Road located at Pagalungan-Tagpangi, Cagayan de Oro City. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The City of Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project : Construction/reconstruction of 1.100 kms FMR with installation of underdrains

Item No.	Scope of Work	Quantity	Unit
102	Roadway & Drainage Exc.	7,062.00	cu.m.
103	Structure Excavation	297.00	cu.m.
104	Embankment (Case 1)	4,387.00	cu.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	990.00	cu.m.
500a	RCPC 610mm dia	86.00	ln.m.
500b	RCPC 910mm dia	44.00	ln.m.
504(1)	Grouted Riprap	729.00	cu.m.

Minimum Bid Security : P60,000.00
Bid Closing Date : November 12, 2001, 10:00 a.m.
Duration : 120 calendar days

Minimum Equipment's Required

1 unit Bulldozer-owned; 1 unit Road Grader-owned; 1 unit Vibratory (9 ton min) Road Roller-owned; 1 unit Loader-owned; 2 units Dump Trucks-owned; Water truck-owned

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **October 15, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand pesos only (P2,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **October 26, 2001** at 10:00 A.M. at the City Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the City Mayor, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental, on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/ bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. VICENTE Y. EMANO**
City Mayor/Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2001)

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HERMINIA (MENY) ESPINO BENDERO

of Samal, Bataan and Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat

Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 10, 2001 at the age of 83.

Her loving husband **Amado Bendero**; her children **Armando** and **Alice**, **Ammirita** and **Jed**; grandchildren **Kelvin, Nissan, Nikka, Avrille, Tobby, Heather, Daryl** and **Aaron**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Bendero residence at Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at Shamarila Gardens Memorial Park, Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

EDGARDO PACHECO

of Mapayapa Village, Diliman, Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 9, 2001
at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Carmelita**; children **Wilfredo, Nilda** & **Miriam**; grandchildren **Alex, Alfie, Anton, Gus, Rafael** & **Maeghan**; sister **Mely**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, Gen. Luna Street, Malabon City.

Interment will be on October 14 at Saldea Memorial Park, Obando, Bulacan at 1:00 PM.

Conchita Manalo Piezas

Born on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - December 8, 1927
Joined her creator at the age of 74, on the month of Mary - October 9, 2001
in San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Her husband Fermin, children and children-in-law Poch & Wena, Koko & Sophie, Eugene & Celine, Sally, Sylvia, Scott & Ninez, Rene & Rina, and grandchildren Jed, Mig-E, Paul, James, Danielle, Marcel, Julian, and Bianca request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Daily masses and novena prayers shall be offered, simultaneously, in San Diego, and at the Holy Family Parish in K-I cor. K-7, Kamias, Q.C.at 6:30 p.m.

On Monday, October 14 there shall be a requiem mass while she will be finally laid to rest in Glen Abbey Memorial Park, Bonita, California, U.S.A.

DRA. FIDENCIA "MADING" LLAMAS ARCINUE

of Lingayen, Pangasinan

Died on October 8, 2001 at the age of 85.

Her loving children **TITUS** and **LUZ**, **BING** and **BELLE**, **CARLING** and **CYNTHIA**, **OSCAR** and **ANN** (†), **TELLY** and **CONDRING**, **RAMON** and **ZOR**, **AL** and **MARY ANN**; sister **CONSUELO**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Artacho Street, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 14, 2001 at the Lingayen Catholic Cemetery after the 2:30 PM Mass at The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the LLAMAS-ARCINUE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FOR CHARITABLE WORK will be greatly appreciated.

"You will forever be in our hearts, Mama"

LIGLIWA "LILY" FERRER CAINDEC

Has peacefully joined our Creator on October 8, 2001
at the age of 69.

Her husband **ANDRES**; children **BOOGIE**, **BO-PEEP & LARRY** Stefanick, **LET**, **JACK & SOCHIE** and **TYEN**; grandchildren **MAIKO**, **JOSH**, **MIKEE**, **DAVID**, **MISHA**, **REEF**, **RONNIE**; brother **YONG & MILA**; and sisters **LALY**, **MELS & ROME** Perez, **CHING & LITO** Caylo, **BEBS & CESAR** Estoye, **BING & TONY** Dubitsky; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on Sunday, 10:00 a.m., October 14, 2001.

With Fondest Memories of Love
on the First Death Anniversary
of

GEORGIA CRUZ MANUEL

of Lingayen, Pangasinan
who passed on to eternal life
on October 12, 2000.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by her family, relatives and friends.

Holy Masses are offered:

Epiphany of Our Lord Parish .... 6:30 AM
Lingayen, Pangasinan
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene ..... 8:00 AM
St. John the Baptist Parish
Quiapo, Manila
St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish ..... 5:00 PM
Mariveles, Bataan
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish ..... 5:30 PM
Cabcaben, Mariveles, Bataan
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish ..... 6:30 PM
Queen's Row Subdivision
Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

Our profoundest gratitude to all who keep her in their prayers.

GREGORIO E. CAUNTAY

Died in the grace of our Lord
on October 10, 2001 at the age of 59.

His loving wife **Zeny**; daughter **Baves**; son-in-law **Andy Boladas**; grandson **EJ**; sisters **Cely Templo, Aurea Balbastro**; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. John's Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels up to Friday, October 12, 2001 and will be transferred thereafter to Calaca, Batangas.

Interment will be at the Calaca Catholic Cemetery on October 16, 2001 at 2:00 PM.

MARIO I. GONZALES

of Cavite City and Quezon City

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 10, 2001
at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Patrocinio (Pat)**; daughter **Ma. Patricia (Tricia)**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Spirit Parish, BF Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on October 14, 2001, 1:00 PM at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina Crematory. There will be a Mass at 11:00 AM at the Holy Spirit Parish Church.

CONCEPCION OZAETA ALDAY

December 5, 1923 - October 9, 2001

Her loving children **Farolito**, **Florita** and **Conrado**; grandchildren **Allan**, **Joyce** and **Aldwin** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state in San Jose, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 13, 2001 at the San Jose Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the San Jose Parish Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for the SUPPLY and INSTALLATION of INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC SECURITY SYSTEM

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced Manila-based companies to apply for prequalification for the supply, installation and ongoing maintenance of an electronic security system. The system shall comprise integrated and networked CCTV, access control, alarm monitoring, video identification badging system and associated field devices.
2. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following minimum requirements:
   - ✓ Have a legal existence for no less than five (5) years as a validly registered company;
   - ✓ Have had extensive experience in the field of electronic security services for not less than five (5) years;
   - ✓ Have a generated annual revenue derived from the installation of electronic security services of at least Php 50,000,000 for the past three (3) years;
   - ✓ Have installed a minimum of five (5) comprehensive electronic security systems, in the Philippines, comprising electronic access control, alarm monitoring CCTV each with a contract value of not less than Php 15,000,000;
   - ✓ Have an extensive, dedicated and continuously manned service and maintenance department complete with company-owned spare parts, located in Metro Manila.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of the Administrative Services, Room 4219 North, at the above address, from **15-19 October 2001** on any working day (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. The ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by the ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) **NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN**
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of the Administrative Services

(PDI -- Oct. 11 & 12, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Spider web

Q. Why is a spider's handicraft called a *cobweb?*

A. *Cob* is a short word with disparate meanings. *Cob* can refer to any small lump (e.g., a piece of coal), a horse, a gull, a swan, and, of course, a corncob. But *cob* has nothing to do with cobwebs. In Old English, spiders were called *attercoppes*, literally 'poison heads,' a mistaken belief that all spiders were poisonous. The word *copweb* appeared in Middle English to describe the net created by spiders, and over the years, the spelling changed from *copweb* to *cobweb*. Evidently, the English penchant for slurring words explains why *cobweb* has endured.

For the Record. The world's largest known spider is the goliath bird-eating spider that live in holes and under fallen trees on the forest floors of South America. Some species have a body as much as 75 millimeters (3 inches) across -- the size of a man's palm -- and a leg span of 200 millimeters (8 inches). These giants have been known to catch small birds, but the bulk of their diet consists of small mammals, amphibians and insects. Like other spiders, they do not chew their food. Instead, they inject digestive juices into the prey and then suck out the fluids from the body.

Take a Tip. You don't have to see an unwanted spider to kill it. Just spray its web with insecticide. Most spiders constantly rebuild their webs by eating the old silk, and they'll ingest the poison along with it.

WORD WATCH

Lason : from the Malay *racun*, 'poison.'

PDI -- October 12, 2001

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

The team that made BMW No. 1

BMW is known the world over for its distinctive design, excellent engineering and thoughtful customer service. It is a premium brand that requires local partners that will protect BMW's global image as the Ultimate Driving Machine. Prestige Cars Inc. (Libis), a select BMW authorized franchise dealership, has proudly upheld the brand's leadership tradition by contributing to making BMW the number one selling European luxury car in the country.

Originally established as a branch of the Prestige Cars network, Prestige Cars Inc. (Libis) is now an independent company that remains committed to making BMW the brand of choice in the luxury car category. The company, managed by the same retail marketing team that has helped make BMW no. 1 in the Philippine luxury car category, is headed by Antonio Modesto L. Aquino as president; Felino B. Samaniego, consultant; Jocelyn M. Chavez, vice president for finance; Ferdinand H. Dulatre, vice president for administration; Mario M. Gloria, vice president for vehicle sales; Eymard Anthony G. Aquino, vice president for after-sales; Armando A. Manuel, service manager; Elmer C. Kimpo, sales manager; and Rodelio T. Cruz, accounting manager.

Aquino said the same retail marketing team that now manages the dealership has helped sell 2,609 BMWs since 1995—that's more than the total sales of all other European luxury cars combined for the same period.

He added that the year 1996 has, so far, been the best year yet for BMW in the Philippines when it sold 197 units in December alone, closing at 930 for the year. He credits this to the retail marketing team's high sense of professionalism and expertise.

Prestige Cars-Libis has the largest BMW sales and service facilities in the country. In fact, it used to be known as the largest Solus (BMW-Land Rover) dealership in Asia back when BMW still owned the Rover and Land Rover vehicles.

Today, Prestige Cars-Libis' spacious showroom located at 184-A E. Rodriguez Jr. (Libis) Avenue in Quezon City features a range of the latest BMW models such as the 316i, 318i, 318i Executive, 325i, 325i Touring, 325i Executive, 523iA, Z3, 2.2 Roadster, Z3 3.0i coupe, M5, 735iA, and the much awaited X5 sports utility vehicle. It is here where existing and prospective clients alike can experience the BMW brand of customer service. Needless to say, it is manned by highly trained sales executives who understand the level of sales and service excellence that car buyers today expect from a BMW dealer.

Prestige Cars-Libis is also equipped with state-of-the-art BMW diagnostic instrument, specialized tools and a vast inventory of genuine parts and accessories. Complementing the delaership's high-tech tools are service technicians who know BMW by heart. All of Prestige Cars-Libis' service technicians have undergone extensive training both here and abroad.

Dermclinic launches oxygen therapy in the Philippines

DERMCLINIC launches another new idea in the field of dermatology. Oxygen therapy, one of the latest alternatives for health buffs, is now available in the Philippines.

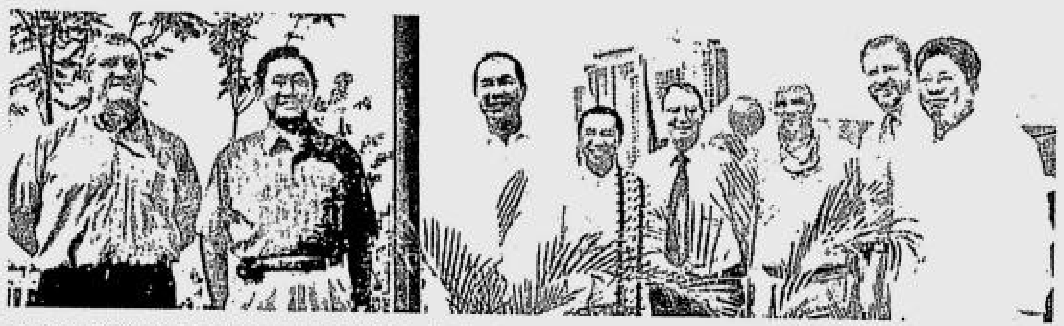
Starting out as the main staple of popular Oxygen Bars in Reno, Nevada and Southern California, oxygen therapy has become a hit not only in the United States, but in Europe and other Asian countries, as well. The overwhelming positive testimonials on the treatment prove that the therapy can de-stress and revitalize instantly. People also swear that it aids in eliminating migraines and helps them lose weight.

At Dermclinic, oxygen therapy exhilarates, calms and de-stresses the individual while getting the benefits of a dermatologically tested medical or basic facial. As in any new treatment, Dermclinic has thoroughly trained its consultants and medical staff in the correct and accurate procedures of performing the treatment, such as the medically recommended flow regulation at 2 to 2.5; and using only top-quality oxygen-safe, non-oil based aromas. All 20 Dermclinic branches are equipped with the latest technology in oxygen therapy.

During the treatment, customers can breathe in pure oxygen "flavored" with different aromatic essences. Using a plastic exonerator or "nose hose" that is plugged into an aromatic infuser, the patient inhales the "flavored" oxygen through the nose and exhales through the mouth to maximize the therapy's oxygenating and aromatherapeutic effects. The therapy uses 97 percent pure oxygen.

MICROSOFT'S THIRD CLC BATCH

'A computer in every home', years ago a US company set out to achieve this goal. Three years ago the same company planted the seeds of what is envisioned to be a connected computer in every school that would create empowered communities of learners, a connected learning community. Recently, Microsoft Philippines launched the third batch of beneficiaries of its Connected Learning Community (CLC). Held at the Island Cove in Cavite, the event also gathered the beneficiaries of the two previous years, 17 high schools that encompass all the regions in the country. Shown are the 17 principals of the selected schools, director III Orly Oxales of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Microsoft managing director Richard Francis, IT Works general manager Tech Valmonte and Microsoft business development director Sam Jacoba.



FBDC COMPLETES ANOTHER MILESTONE

Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. recently hosted the inauguration of 32nd Street, the road that provides a direct link from C-5 to the Kalayaan Flyover. Seen at the event were Ricardo S. Pascua, FBDC president and CEO and chair Rogelio L. Singson of BCDA, who both ceremonially cut the ribbon unveiling the signpost identifying the street. Also present were director Ernesto Camarillo of DPWH; Andrew Freeman, general manager of Bonifacio Construction Management Corp., Alistair Knox of Parsons Brinckerhoff, the designers of the road, and Alistair Kennedy of First Balfour Beatty, general contractor. Opening this road to the general public has eased the travel time for those who commute daily, as it allows motorists speedy access to and from Makati Central Business District through the Bonifacio Global City. Strategically located along 32nd Street is S&R Price, the US-based warehouse club that has seen crowds of shoppers since its opening last month. Soon to open along this route is Bonifacio StopOver, a gas plaza with retail and convenience outlets aimed to serve locators to e-Square, the Global City's IT park.

"LAUNCH G OF FLU AWARENESS CAMPAIGN"
May 28, 2001, 7 P.M.

FLU AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Recently, a press conference was held at the Westin Philippine Plaza in line with the launching of the Flu Awareness campaign. Shown, from left, were Dr. Cholly Obillo, vice president, PCCP; Nilda Enguerra, product manager, pediatric, Aventis Pasteur; Dr. Tim Trinidad, FPCCP-UST; Paul Alan Dollinger, country manager, Aventis Pasteur; Richard Bello Bringas, product manager, adult vaccines, Aventis Pasteur; Dr. Luningning Villa, DOH; Dr. Joselito Sta. Ana, medical director, Aventis Pasteur; Dr. Jennifer-Ann Mendoza-Wi, president PCCP; Dr. Isaias, FPCCP-UST; Dr. Benilda Galvez, FPCCP, chair, Council on Lung Infection. For more information on flu and flu vaccines, ask your doctor or call the flu hotline at 840-1056.

NESCAFE-TRUE FAITH TIEUP

Nescafe, maker of the world's No. 1 coffee, recently joined hands with the country's premiere pop band True Faith to perform the hit 'Sumasarap ang Gising'. Composed by Russell Molina, the song caught the attention of members of the band because of its truly captivating lyrics and rhythm. Likewise, the interest of Nescafe was snared because of Nescafe's new ad campaign where Nescafe Classic sets off the beginning of a beautiful day. Shown (from left) are Nestle Phils. VP for Coffee and Beverages Andy Bramston, True Faith members Jun Dizon, Bimbo Yance, Jay Valencia, True Faith manager and vocalist Medwin Marfil shaking hands with Nestle Phils. EVP for marketing Gabby Consulta, Nescafe brand manager Dennis Austriaco, Jake Lumacad and Eugene Marfil also of True Faith.

PHILIPS X-RAGE TOP PRO ATHLETES IN MANILA

Top X-games pro-athletes recently flew to Manila for Philips X-rage, the most explosive extreme sportsfest of the year organized by Philips Consumer Electronics, one of the world's biggest consumer electronics companies. Shown (from left) are Zack 'Webber' Murphy, JD Heino, Willy Santos, Tokyo Tokyo marketing manager Maitelle España, Michael Peterson and Joshua Heino during their store visit at Tokyo Tokyo Glorietta, one of the event's co-sponsor.

Joy dishwashing challenge in Davao

CONSUMER firm Procter & Gamble and passenger shipping company WG&A will bring the Joy dishwashing challenge to Davao City on Oct. 15. WG&A's Superferry 8 will leave Manila on Oct. 13, make a stopover in Iloilo on Oct. 14, and arrive in Davao City the following day. During the three-day trip, just a 265-ml bottle of Joy dishwashing liquid will be used to wash all the dishes of the ship's passengers and crew. Davao City's three most populated barangays will hold a welcome party the whole afternoon of the 15th. All the plates used in that party will be brought to the parking lot of the Victoria Plaza Mall for the dishwashing event "Isang Bote, Isang Bansa"—the Joy Triple Power Challenge.

Makati People's Mart opens

OPENING on Oct. 14 along J.P. Rizal Street is the Makati People's Mart. Situated near the boundary of Sta. Ana, it is opposite the plush Rockwell Center. The no-frills approach of the Makati People's Mart is designed to ensure big savings for patrons. The 1.5-hectare property features only 20-footer container vans as stores, converted to suit the requirements of various lessees. Interested lessees may drop by the site or call 896-6106; 823-2240; 721-4701, and 721-7734.

Touch Mobile offers free trials

TOUCH Mobile, the unique voice-guided cellular service of Islacom, in cooperation with Globe Telecom, will be available for a free trial on its revolutionary services in Touch Mobile trial booths. The trial booths are located at the Glorietta, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Ayala Center Cebu, Victoria Plaza Davao, SM Cebu, SM Iloilo until Oct. 14. The trial booths will allow the public to discover information-on-demand services without memorizing keywords, change SIM cards, read long text messages, or get a specific type of handset.

Hope for troubled marriages

MARRIED couples who need healing in their relationship can seek help from a Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery) weekend scheduled from Nov. 9 to 11 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Barangay San Jose (near San Pablo Seminary), Tagaytay City. Fr. David Clay of the Columban House, Singalong, Manila, is the spiritual director of Retrouvaille. He and three couples who have experienced the Retrouvaille program will give talks during the weekend. Couples who want more information on the program may call Fr. David Clay at 523-3361 or 0918-9020511, Tom and Ruby del Castillo at 931-8413 and 932-3750, Ding and Belen Bauza at 776-4413, Tessie Reyes at 800-5255 (between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or 0917-5388970, and Joe and Ting Jimenez at 927-3905 (after 7 p.m.).

PGA YASUDA 10TH YEAR

PGA Yasuda Insurance Company Inc. observed its 10th year recently. PGA Yasuda is a joint venture of two of Asia's leading non-life insurance organizations Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc. and The Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Company Ltd. of Japan. Shown are Hiroshi Hirano (left), president of Yasuda, and Robert Coyiuto Jr., chair and CEO of Prudential Guarantee shaking hands on the anniversary celebration. On April 1, 2002, The Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Company Ltd. and two other insurance companies in Japan, The Taisei Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Ltd. and The Nissan Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Ltd. will merge and bring about more cogent organization. The new institution shall be called Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.

GENERALI PILIPINAS OFFICE BLESSING

Generali Pilipinas top officers and shareholders were at the blessing and ribbon-cutting of the Generali Pilipinas Megamall office at the fifth floor bridgeway A last Sept. 20. Among those present at the ribbon-cutting were, from left, Generali Pilipinas president and CEO Alfonso Garcia Jr; director Ralph Liew; senior vice president Sharon Maranan; director Nestor Tan; senior vice president Alfredo Castelo, and senior vice president Rolando Ramos. The Megamall office was just one of three new offices blessed that day, the other two being the Makati extension office in the Salustiana building at 104 Paseo de Roxas, and the Alabang office in the Common Goal Tower at Finance corner Industry Streets, Madrigal Business Park. The triple blessings underscored the firm commitment of Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company and Generali Pilipinas Insurance Company to continue expanding the reach of their services in both life and non-life insurance.

BURN VICTIM GETS HELP

Philantropist and socio-civic leader Rose Marie J. Arenas (second from right) of the Father Pio Lend A Hand Foundation spearheaded a humanitarian project to raise funds for the benefit of 21-year-old Roberta Sandejas (second from left), who sustained injuries when concentrated sulfuric acid was thrown at her face. Arenas was able to secure the help of Dr. James Dy (left), chair of the Philippine-Chinese Charitable Association and the Chinese General Hospital. Shown is the formal ceremony where Dy turned over the PCCA donation of P320,000 to Sandejas. Sandejas was able to engage, for free, the services of a doctor-surgeon of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Other donors from PCCA were Chua Kee Lin (right) and Antonio Tecson (not shown).

BUSINESS

IN WAKE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

PLDT planning new call center

By Abigail L. Ho

LEADING telecommunications firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has begun discussing plans to put up another call center in the country as demand rose after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"The discussions are certainly ongoing because there is a demand. Unfortunately, part of the demand came from the disaster in the US, so there has certainly been a number of queries coming from the US as to how the PLDT group can further assist in terms of call center projects," ePLDT managing director Ariel Roda said on Tuesday.

ePLDT is the Internet arm of PLDT through which telecommunications and data infrastructure for call centers are provided.

PLDT currently has two call centers: Contact World and TeleTech.

Roda said Contact World had been picking up quite a number of customers. TeleTech is set to be operational next month.

Roda said TeleTech's first call center at Fort Bonifacio's e-Square Information Technology Park was now undergoing site renovations in preparation for next month's kick-off.

"We're now setting up the infrastructure in terms of the building and the location. We're also hiring and training people as well as preparing for the arrival of the equipment," he said.

The call center initially has 500 available seats, but it is capable of expanding to a thousand seats in the future.

Roda said there were still no discussions with any prospective partners for the project.

He said PLDT "remains bullish on (its) position in so far as Philippine business is concerned." He said setting up another call center would be very strategic for the company as some clients might demand competitive lockout.

"Normally, when you set up a call center, it's specific to a (certain) client. For example, if you take on a (bank), it (the client bank) will not allow you as a call center operator to take on another bank. That's the nature of the call center business. There's some level of exclusivity for call center contracts," Roda said.

He said call center operators in other countries and even in the Philippines had taken the strategy of setting up call centers with thousands of seats available.

Roda said PLDT, on the other hand, based on its business model, preferred to "tailor fit" its services to a client's call center requirements.

Call centers usually handle telephone calls and e-mail inquiries coming from a partner's clients in the United States and in other English-speaking countries worldwide.

Other centers also expand their services to include non-English speaking countries in the world.

Steel companies score tariff perks for NSC

By Elena R. Torrijos

SOME 782 companies employing over 60,000 employees yesterday scored the Department of Trade and Industry for readying a tariff protection package for prospective investors of shuttered steel firm National Steel Corp.

In separate letters to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II and SEC chair Lilia Bautista, the Downstream Steel Industry said the tariff cover "clearly favors one company to the detriment of the other members of the industry."

"We sincerely believe that the proposed policy is seriously misguided and will harm the entire economy since its impact and unwanted harmful effects will be fat reaching both within and beyond the confines of the steel industry," DSI said.

The Macapagal administration is hammering out an incentive package to attract more investors into buying into the NSC.

The incentives package would include tariff protection for steel products, specifically those produced by the NSC, such as hot and cold rolled coils, billets and tinplates.

These products are vital and critical raw materials in the production of pipes, roofing sheets, metal sheets for appliance and auto parts and a host of other products.

"Any additional tariff duties will gravely compromise the global competitiveness of DSI manufacturers and processors," DSI said.

"While we support the government's various attempts to revive the NSC, we ask that it weigh the impact and the outcome of the alternative that is chosen. Any government thrust to develop upstream steel activity must never be at the expense of downstream industries," it said.

"We're willing to provide tariff protection to the industry only to the extent that this would help new investors of the NSC in their start-up," Roxas, the trade secretary, has been quoted as saying.

Stiff competition from steel imports, specifically from Russia, had been blamed for driving up the NSC's losses, which led to its forced closure in November 1999.

Unitrust barred from hiring

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has barred the new owners of Unitrust Development Bank from recruiting new employees until allowed by the Monetary Board to do so.

A number of investors led by Japanese businessman Genta Ogami of G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. recently acquired Unitrust from the group of former Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis Yulo and former Rizal Rep. Emigdio Tanjuatco.

In a letter, the central bank told Unitrust's new owners that the Monetary Board had yet to approve their acquisition of the bank. Until then, it stressed, they were prevented from recruiting new employees.

Unitrust, a thrift bank, has run advertisements in two major dailies in an aggressive campaign to recruit new personnel.

The BSP said in its letter to Ogami and Unitrust's other investors that these paid advertisements gave the impression that Unitrust would go into businesses other than banking.

"The central bank still needs to conduct a due diligence on its new owners to see if they are qualified and capable of running a bank," BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said in a news briefing.

Reyes said Unitrust's recent ads suggested that the bank was planning to operate as a holding company.

The bank is trying to recruit executives and staff with experience "in banking or insurance," he said. He said a thrift bank like Unitrust was barred from engaging in insurance.

Reyes said he also found it strange that Unitrust was recruiting secretaries that should be well-versed in politics, movie and commercial production, environment protection, and mergers and acquisitions.

He said an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission shutting down Ogami's G. Cosmos could affect the Unitrust acquisition.

The SEC is investigating G. Cosmos on charges that it has violated the country's Securities Regulation Code, particularly the provisions that prohibit the sale of securities not registered with the regulatory agency.

G. Cosmos, through nationwide television and print ads, promotes the salvation of the world through a supposed high-yielding instrument based on an aggressive advertising campaign of mail-order products sold in Japan.

Based on complaints filed with the SEC, G. Cosmos failed to deliver on promises that investors would receive 30 percent of profit as advertised to retirees, pensioners and businessmen who were assured of earning as much as P30,000 to P50,000 a month. A member was also assured of getting 5 percent of the profit of other recruits.

The SEC was also investigating reports that Ogami has a criminal record overseas.

"The SEC order can be used as basis for their disqualification. Even a mere suspicion that they are not fit could be used as basis by the BSP to reject the acquisition," Reyes told reporters.

Formerly controlled by Group Management Corp., Unitrust was acquired by G. Universal Co. Ltd., Minamoto Saiken Kaishu Co. Ltd., and individual investors Leopoldo Valcarcel Jr., Pedro Montanez and Francis Yuseco Jr.

If the Monetary Board approves the acquisition, each investor will own 20 percent of Unitrust.

The price of the acquisition, which covers 13 Unitrust branches in Metro Manila, has yet to be disclosed.

The new owners of Unitrust have pledged to re-capitalize the bank and bring its current capitalization of P200 million within the P325-million minimum required by the central bank for thrift banks.

BSP warns Equitable over prexy

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has cautioned the country's fourth-largest lender, Equitable-PCI Bank Inc., against continuously violating the Corporation Code in having a president who has no board seat.

The central bank has advised Equitable to amend its articles of incorporation to give its president, former Bankers Association of the Philippines chief Deogracias Vistan, a board seat.

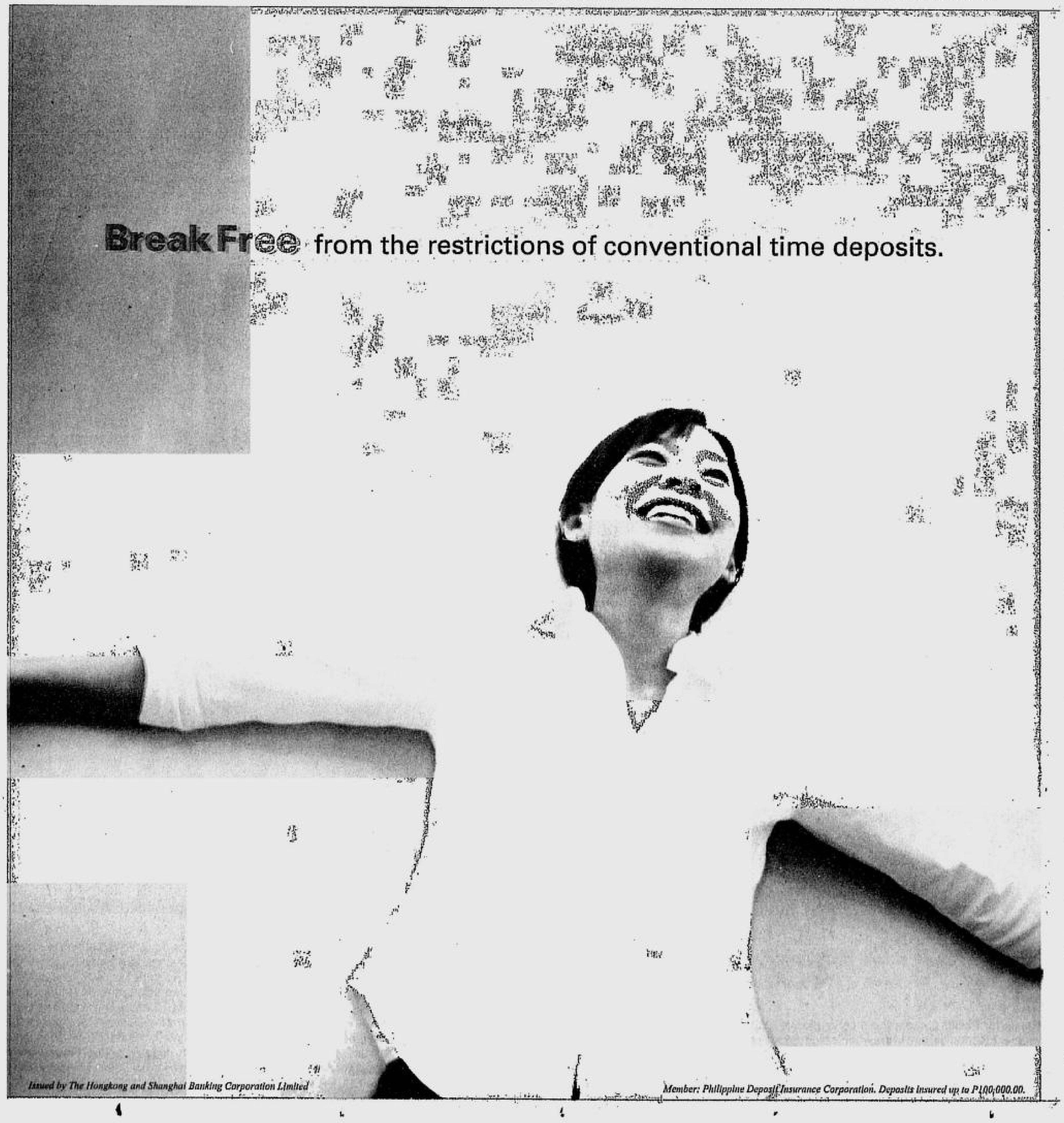
Vistan, a former president of Solidbank Corp., was appointed president of Equitable in April this year. When he assumed this post two months later, however, he did not have a seat in the bank's 15-member board.

A person familiar with the situation said the BSP had written Equitable to remind it that it needed to change its articles of incorporation as it was already violating the Corporation Code.

The law requires any bank president to also be a member of the board.

Vistan is sitting in Equitable's board as an ex-officio member, which means he has no voting rights.

Equitable may increase its board seats to 21 since it has gone through a merger, having acquired Philippine International Commercial Bank in 1999.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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Formula for hard times: *Patong x ikot x laway*

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

PATONG x ikot x laway is the formula for staying in business during these hard times.

No, the advice is not lifted from the wisdom of Ador Mawanay pondering his old days as street hawker peddling smuggled goods. It is from the dean of Asia's premier business school, no less, counseling entrepreneurs on ways to cope with the protracted economic crisis.

"It's back to basics," says Eduardo Morato, dean of the Asian Institute of Management.

Customer focus, product line analysis, and creative strategies are the order of the day. Watch those warning signs in your production indices and keep that expansion urge in check.

Morato says now more than ever, the key to survival is staying attuned to the customer's needs.

"The entrepreneur who addresses the needs of his customers better can get the sales," says Morato, guru to entrepreneurs learn

FORMULA/ C7

GLOISSAN Craft owner Gloria de la Cruz works against odds to make her venture succeed.

Crafting a successful venture in far and typhoon-prone island

BY JOB BELEN
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

VIRAC, Catanduanes—Few handicraft producers in this island-province, a favorite playground of typhoons, have succeeded, especially with a small amount of money to start with.

Aggravating the meager capitalization are the difficulty in maintaining manpower because of the extremely high migration rate, hard-to-follow market trends and expensive product marketing because of the province's location. The producers have to be always on their toes.

But for Gloria de la Cruz, owner of Gloissan Craft and who ventured in handicrafts by accident, braving the challenge and taking the risk proved to be a worthy endeavor—especially for a woman like her.

Glo, as her friends fondly call her, used to work with the Sudsea Products Co. Ltd., a company owned by her elder sister, Nena Schwalb, which was engaged in fashion accessories manufacturing. She was a designer.

Owing to her artistic ability, it took only a year before one of her designs was recognized in an international fair. Sudsea Products Co. Ltd. won an award in Berlin, Germany, for its designs, one of which was Glo's work.

But the entrepreneurial knack in her drove Glo to put up her own dressmaking business, the Gloissan Dress Shop, in 1992 in Virac, Catanduanes.

For five years, she focused her efforts on establishing a name in the local dressmaking sector while her husband was working in Munich, Germany, as a service staff of the Bayerischer Hof Hotel.

The couple was forced to suffer the pain of being separated for so many years because of financial necessity.

Glo's focus was diverted in 1997. That year while her sister Nena was on a vacation in the province, they were able to observe a training course in handmade paper conversion conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The finished products caught her interest. She decided to try her hand on the craft.

The first products she was able to come up with were stuffed animal décors using handmade paper. She used the same material in making packaging boxes.

For her initial output, the final design used *"sinamay"* as the finished covering.

Glo joined a local study mission (LSM) and developed further interest in the handicraft business. The LSM conducted by the DTI and facilitated by the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) landed her in the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) where she was able to observe various production processes used in the industry.

From then on, the lady entrepreneur decided to go into handicraft production and changed the name of her business into Gloissan Craft.

Glo said that the local market is not enough to sustain a handicraft business, especially if one has to actually produce the articles she sells.

She said that the local handicraft producers have to join trade fairs outside the province to establish links with the buyers and fellow businessmen.

CRAFTING/ C2

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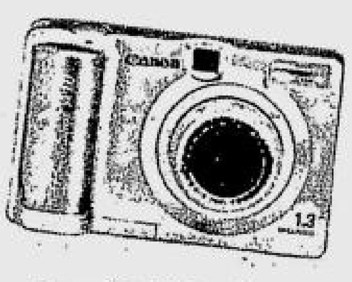

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RP ads finalists in London awards

IN ONE of its most scintillating performances ever in world print ad competitions, the Philippines bags a total of 11 shortlist citations in the London International Advertising Awards—one of the five most prestigious advertising award shows in the world.

Seven Philippine ad agencies led by BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega, and Ogilvy and Mather broke into the tough finalist column with three citations each, followed by Ace-Saatchi and Saatchi, DDB Philippines, Leo Burnett, Jimenez D'Arcy and Publicis-AMA with one each.

BBDO's finalists are "Fence" for Adidas, "Caught Dead" and "Comes Back" for Iconos Memorial Urns. Ogilvy scored for its "Sponge" for Huggies, "Clouds" for Kotex Fresh Pantiliners, and "Snowman" for Depend Adult Diapers. Ace-Saatchi struck with "Arms" for Community and Family Services International. DDB Philippines sparkled with "Posporo" for Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Leo Burnett dazzled with "100" for its self-promotion ad. Jimenez D'Arcy triumphed with "Breathable" for Bench and Publicis-AMA shone with "Valentines" for Nescafé.

More than 17,800 entries from across the globe competed in this year's ad derby chaired by Neil French, Ogilvy and Mather worldwide creative director. David Guerrero, president and executive creative director of BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega; Micky Domingo, executive creative director of McCann-Erickson; and Roger Pe, deputy executive creative director of DDB Philippines were among those who sat in the jury.

MSA offers scholarships

MSA Academic Advancement Institute is offering full MSA review scholarships to students in Grades 6 and 7 from all public and private schools in Metro Manila and neighboring areas.

The offer is limited to candidates for valedictorian who are invited to participate in MSA's competitive exam to be given on Oct. 13 at 315 Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The 40 students who will top the exam will receive full scholarship to MSA's review program for the Philippine Science High School entrance exams. The scholarship includes free tuition and review materials and the use of MSA's facilities. Review classes will be held from Oct. 13 to Dec. 1.

"We hope to motivate students to strive to excel in math and science," says MSA director Merle S. Alferez. Qualified students who would like to take the competitive exam are required to confirm their attendance before Oct. 6. They may call 434-3693 or 925-7216.

Crafting a successful venture . . .

(From page C1)

Her first taste of marketing in a trade fair was in 1997 when she joined one sponsored by the Canada-Assisted Community Enterprise Development Inc. By then she was highly optimistic of business prospects.

Her product lines now include stuffed animal décors, packaging boxes, picture frames, Christmas décors and bamboo chimes, which are well received by buyers here and abroad

Gloissan Craft also joined Catanduanes Producers Association Inc. (Capai), which has a lending program. In August 1998, Capai joined the International Trade Exposition in New Jersey, United States and the Canadian Exposition in Toronto, Canada.

Glo personally participated in the events to experience and further explore the export market.

Despite all the seemingly excellent turn of events, the year 1998 was a very trying year for Gloissan Craft—and for every Catandunganon—because of the super typhoon "Loleng" that left destruction all over the island-province.

For Gloissan Craft, the aftermath left an almost-zero business. Their preparations for the 1999 National Trade Fair were derailed. Her investments were battered.

Gloissan Craft, however, wove its way back into business. Glo's husband stopped working abroad and instead helped her run the business.

The enterprise has recovered from its near closure. It has now established a new and bigger showroom in this capital town and has delivery vehicles.

Now it supplies bulky orders of "bamboo chimes" to buyers in Hawaii. Joining national trade fairs helped them find buyers. Their problem now is how to serve them all and how to reach an agreement with each.

Gloissan Craft became a regular participant in every trade fair, in and out of the province. Their product designs change occasionally as they ride along the market trends.

She has booked a large order for the forthcoming National Trade Fair 2001.

Gloissan Craft will join for the fourth time in the Orgullo kan Bikol, a regional trade fair to be held at the SM Megamall's Mega Trade 2 in Mandaluyong City on Oct. 11-14.

The firm is one of the 97 Bicol manufacturers, producers and exporters who will participate in the exhibit and sell products and services.

Firm hopes to knock off wood with its new 'lite' product

By Christine A. Gaylican

MARKETING STRATEGY

WHEN HardiFlex entered the market two years ago, it launched a multimillion campaign blitz to introduce the product.

The name recall aimed by the blitz worked—everybody knows HardiFlex. Unfortunately the brand recall did not translate into sales.,

Although houseowners are aware of the alternative to wood, they preferred the latter because it is cheaper and lighter.

HardiFlex is a concrete material that was being marketed as a better alternative to wood panels for walls and ceilings. It is made of concrete fiber cement is also termite-proof, fire-resistant and leak-proof, and costs 10 percent more than plywood.

James Hardie Philippines Inc. (JHPI) president John Balass notes that despite the durability of the product as compared with ordinary plywood, the price was still a factor in the decision to buy the product. And people still turned to the cheaper alternative.

On top of the price issue, was the weight of the product.

The weight of HardiFlex 4.5 is more than double that of a plywood sheet, so contractors see this as a negative attribute because it requires more people to install, and therefore increases the cost, Balass admits.

Realizing the barriers, the firm inovated and created a new type.

James Hardie Philippines Inc. recently introduced the HardiFlex Lite.

Balass says that HardiFlex Lite, with dimensions of 3.5 mm x 4 ft x 8 ft, can directly compete against the price of plywood sheets and its weight. The lighter weight also makes installation of the material easier.

Balass is confident that HardiFlex lite, priced at P235, puts it at par with the ordinary plywood 5.0

He says that they are also providing its construction material dealers with training for their counter clerks on the installation of HardiFlex lite.

The firm is also introducing the product to contractors and architects.

Balass says Hardiflex has an estimated 17-percent share of the plywood market and is targeting to increase this to 22 percent.

"The average disposable income of Filipinos has reduced significantly because of the current economic climate making it difficult for consumers to justify the price premium of HardiFlex before," confides Balass.

James Hardie Philippines Inc. initially invested $70 million in its plant in Cabuyao, Laguna, to manufacture HardiFlex products.

Balass notes that the country is a largely untapped market for fiber cement. Despite its mall-market share, James Hardie still believes in the potential of its product.

The Filipino finds himself constantly replacing his ceiling, observes Balass. "People are tired of seeing plywood rot. We saw the opportunity and we're replacing the failing plywood in the market."

Balass says the raw materials used to make light fiber cement are wood fibers acquired from New Zealand or the United States.

These wood fibers come from "replenishable" forest, a managed forest wherein only 10 percent of its trees are used per year, giving time for the forest to replace or "rejuvenate" itself. The other major ingredients, like cement and sand, are sourced locally.

About 70 percent of James Hardie Philippines' products are sold locally, while 30 percent are exported to Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong, Spain, Israel, Turkey and the Middle East.

Balass says that even with the glut in the construction industry, business is still growing because people value a solid ceiling over their heads.

"Last year the business grew about 40 percent. This year we'll grow about 15 percent. The market shrunk. It is becoming smaller but we're still growing," Balass cites.

James Hardie Philippine plant in Laguna is the only plant the company has in Asia. The Philippines would be its base for launching other plants in the region.

HardiFlex lite
Ang HardiFlex na pang-kisame
Paano ikabit ang HardiFlex® lite?
James Hardie

Withholding tax: The latest buzz in show biz

By Kathleen L. Saga
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

NEW rules issued by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) are usually passing events. The regulations are published in newspapers for circulation and then implemented.

Last month however, the issuance Revenue Regulations No. 6-2001 (RR 6-2001) was met with much fuss, mainly by the folks in show biz. They were protesting the doubling of their creditable withholding tax (CWT) rate from 10 percent to 20 percent.

Apparently, the clamor was enough for the DOF and BIR to reconsider their position, thus the issuance of Revenue Regulations No. 12-2001 (RR 12-2001) last Sept. 10, 2001, providing for revised CWT rates on talent fees for services rendered by individuals.

Section 3 of RR 12-2001 provides for a 20-percent CWT rate if the recipient's gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000, and a 10-percent CWT in all other cases.

Section 3 of RR 6-2001 as amended by RR 12-2001 thus provides for the revised CWT rates as follows: *(See table)*

Disclosure requirement

In order to determine the applicable CWT rate for recipients of talent fees, every professional entertainer, professional athlete, director involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions, and other recipients of talent fees will be required to annually disclose his gross income for the current year to the BIR. The notarized sworn declaration shall be filed with the withholding tax division of the BIR national office. Furthermore, every professional entertainer, professional athlete, director involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions, and other recipients of talent fees shall furnish all his current payors a copy of the declaration duly stamped received by the BIR.

The disclosure is required to be filed on June 30 of each year, or within 15 days after the end of the month in which the talent's income for the current year reaches P720,000, whichever comes earlier. In case the talent's total gross income is less than P720,000 as of June 30, he shall submit a second disclosure within 15 days after the end of the month in which his gross income for the current year reaches P720,000.

The deadline for the submission of the initial disclosure shall be on or before Sept. 30, 2001, or within 15 days after the effectivity of the regulations, whichever comes later. In case of failure to submit the annual disclosure to the BIR, the payor shall automatically apply the 20-percent CWT rate.

What is a creditable withholding tax?

A CWT is a percentage of tax collected at source by the person making an income payment (known as the withholding agent) to a person subject to tax. It is called a creditable withholding tax because the amount withheld and remitted to the BIR by the withholding agent is credited against the final income tax of the income recipient. For this purpose, the law requires the withholding agent to issue a certificate of withholding tax to the person whose taxes were withheld. The taxpayer then submits the certificate of withholding tax along with his annual income tax return as proof of partial payment of his taxes so that the taxes earlier withheld may be credited against his final income tax liability.

Strictly speaking, the doubling of the withholding tax rate does not translate to higher taxes for the income recipient because the taxes earlier withheld are credited against, i.e. deducted from, the taxpayer's final tax payment.

While it is true that less income is received owing to the higher percentage of tax that the withholding agent has to remit to the government, at the end of the year, there will be less taxes to pay also.

When to withhold

Under the old regulations, the obligation of the payor to deduct and withhold the tax arises at the time income payment is paid or payable. The term "payable" refers to the date the obligation became due, demandable or legally enforceable. However, under RR 12-2001, the obligation to deduct and withhold the tax arises at the time income payment is paid or payable, or at the time the income payment is accrued or recorded as an expense or asset in the payor's books, whichever comes first.

Where income is not yet paid or payable but the same has been recorded as an expense or asset in the payors books, the obligation to withhold shall arise in the last month of the return period in which the same is claimed as an expense or amortized for tax purposes.

Other amendments

Sections 5, 6 and 7 of RR 6-2001 as amended by Section 6 of RR 12-2001 also provide for the revised time for filing the returns for withholding tax, VAT, DST and percentage tax as follows: *(See table)*

Notes:

1. Section 120 ? Overseas communication tax
2. Section 125 ? Amusement
3. Section 126 ? Tax on winnings
4. Section 127 ? Stock transaction tax and IPO tax

Clearly, there is a move to encourage the use of the electronic filing and payment system (EFPS) as the deadline for electronic filing is 5 days later than the deadline for manual filing.

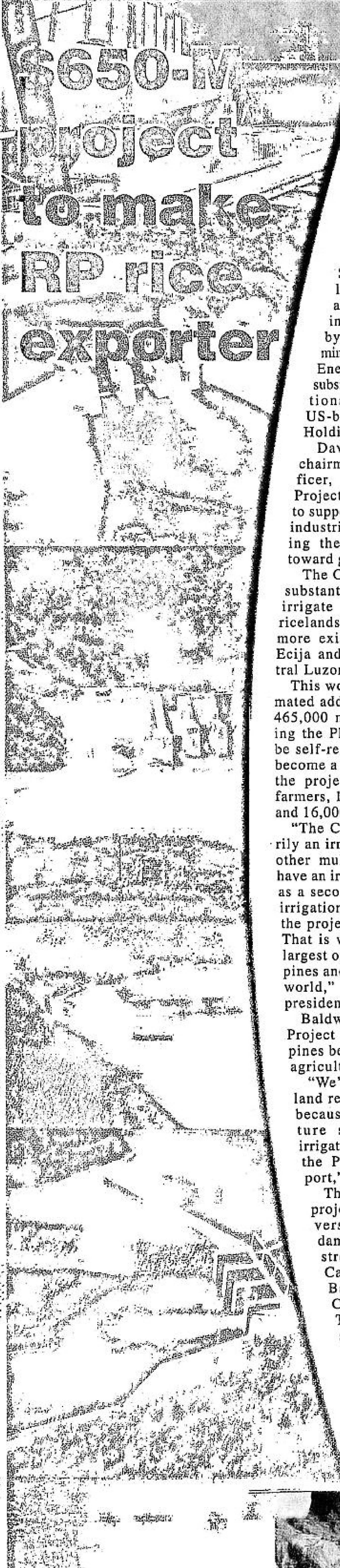
Effectivity

RR 6-2001 and RR 12-2001 shall take effect with respect to money/income payments paid or payable or accrued/recorded as expense/asset in the books of accounts in October 2001 the withholding taxes of which are required to be remitted to the BIR within the month of November 2001. The new filing deadline dates shall apply to October 2001 returns that are due for filing in November 2001. *(For comments, e-mail to sgvmail @AndersenWO.)*

Income subject to creditable Withholding tax	From (CWT rates under RR 2-98)	To (CWT rates under RR 6-2001 as amended by RR 12-2001)
A. Professional fees, talent fees, etc. for services rendered by individuals		
1. Professional entertainers, such as but not limited to, actors and actresses, singers and emcees	10%	20% if the gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000 10%- in all other cases
2. Professional athletes, including basketball players, pelotaris and jockeys	10%	20% - if the gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000 10%- in all other cases
3. All directors involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions	10% for the current P720,000	20% if the gross income year exceeds 10% in all other cases
4. Other recipients of talent fees	10%	20% if the gross income for the year current exceeds P720,000 10% in all other cases
5. Fees of directors who are not employees of the company paying such fees, whose duties are confined to attendance at and participation in the meetings of the board of directors	10%	20%
B. Professional fees, etc. for servicesl of taxable juridical persons	5%	10%
C. Income payments to certain contractors: 1. General engineering contractors 2. General building contractors 3. Specialty contractors 4. Other Contractors	1%	2%
D. Income payments to customs, insurance, real estate and commercial brokers, and agents of professional entertainers	5%	10%
E. Gross selling price or fair market value paid to the seller/owner for the sale, exchange or transfer, or real property classified as ordinary asset, where the seller is not habitually engaged in the real estate business	7.5%	6%
F. Certain income payments made by credit card companies	1/2% on the gross amounts paid	1% on one-half of the gross amounts paid

Tax	From	To (Manual)
To (EFPS)		
1. Creditable and final withholding tax (excluding the month of December and excluding the final withholding tax on interest from any currency bank deposit and yield or any other monetary benefit form deposit substitutes and from trust funds and similar arrangements):		
a. Non-large taxpayer	Within 10 days after the end of each month	Within 10 days after the end of each month
b. Large taxpayer	Within 25 days after the end of of each month	Within 10 days after the end each month
Within 15 days after the end of each month		
Within 15 days after the end of each month		
2. Creditable and final withholding tax for the month of December (excluding the final withholding tax on interest from any currency bank deposit and yield or any other monetary benefit from deposit substitutes, and from trust funds and similar arrangements):		
a. Non-large taxpayer	On or before January 25 of the following year	On or before January 15 of the following year
b. Large taxpayer	On or before January 25 of the following year	On or before January 15 of the following year
On or before Jan. 20 of the following year		
On or before Jan. 20 of the followingyear		
3. Final withholding tax on interest from any currency bank deposit and yield or any other monetary benefit from deposit substitutes and from trust funds and similar arrangements:		
a. Non-large taxpayer	Within 25 days from the close of each calendar quarter	For January to November-within 10 days after the end of each month For December- on or before January15 of the following year
b. Large taxpayer	Within 25 days from the close of each calendar quarter	For January to November-within 10 days after the end of eachmonth For December- on or before Jan. 15 of the following year
For January to November—within 15 days after the end of each month		
For December- on or before Jan. 20 of the following year		
For January to November—within 15 days after the end of each month		
For December—on or before Jan. 20 of the following year		
4. Withholding tax on compensation (excluding the month of December):		
a. Non-large Taxpayer	On or before the 10th day of the month following the month in which withholding was made	On or before the 10th day of the month following the month in which withholding was made
b. Large Taxpayer	On or before the 25th of the following month	On or before the month following the month it was made
On or before the15th day of the month following the month in which withholding was made		
On or before the15th day of the month following the month in which withholding was made		
5. Withholding tax on compensation for the month of December:		
a. Non-large taxpayer	Not later than Jan. 25 of the following year	Not later than Jan. 15 of the following year
b. Large taxpayer	On or before the 25th of the following month	Not later than January 15 of the following year
Not later than Jan. 20 of the following year		
Not later than Jan. 20 of the following year		
6. Value-added tax-monthly VAT declaration:		
a. Non-large taxpayer	Within 25 days after the end of each month	Within 10 days after the end of each month
b. Large taxpayer	Not later than the 25th day following the end of each month	Not later than the 10th day following the end of each month
Within 15 days after the end of each month		
Not later than the 15th day following the end of each month		
7. Documentary stamp tax:		
a. Non-large and b. Large Taxpayer	Within 10 days after the close of the month when the taxable document was made, signed, accepted, or transferred	Within the 5 days after the month when the taxable document was made, signed, accepted, or transferred
8. Percentage Tax a. Non-large and large taxpayer	Within 25 days after the end of each taxable quarter	Within 10 days after the end of each month, except those under Sections 120,125,126 and 127 of the Tax Code of 1997
Within 15 days after the end of each month, except those under Sections 120, 125, 126 and 127 of the Tax Code of 1997 Within 15 days after the end of each month, except those under Sections 120, 125, 126 and 127 of the Tax Code of 1997		

Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project Inauguration



$650-M project to make RP rice exporter

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

THE CASECNAN Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project is the fulfillment of a vision to provide vital infrastructure that will help boost the country's rice production, at the same time providing additional supply of electricity to the communities.

The Project, which costs $650 million, is one of the largest combined irrigation and hydroelectric facilities in the world. It is developed by the National Irrigation Administration and the CE Casecnan Energy and Water Co. Inc., a subsidiary of CalEnergy International, itself an affiliate of US-based MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. (MEHC).

David Sokol, MidAmerican chairman and chief executive officer, says that "the Casecnan Project creates the infrastructure to support productive farming and industrialization, further advancing the Philippines' movement toward global competitiveness."

The Casecnan Project promises substantial benefits. It will help irrigate 35,000 hectares of new ricelands and will benefit 102,000 more existing ricelands in Nueva Ecija and other provinces in Central Luzon.

This would translate into an estimated additional rice production of 465,000 metric tons per year, giving the Philippines the capacity to be self-reliant in rice and possibly, become a rice exporter. In addition, the project would benefit 14,000 farmers, 18,000 farming households and 16,000 non-farming households.

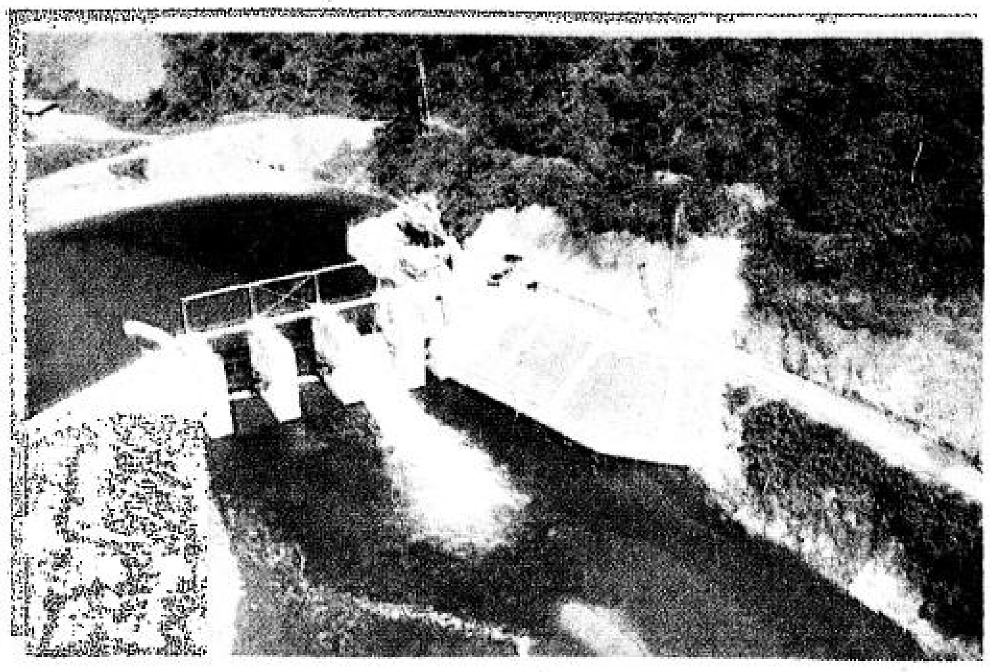
"The Casecnan Project is primarily an irrigation project. There are other multi-purpose projects which have an irrigation component but only as a secondary feature. In this case, irrigation is the primary feature of the project and power is secondary. That is why we can consider it the largest of its kind here in the Philippines and probably in the rest of the world," explains David Baldwin, president of CalEnergy.

Baldwin adds that the Casecnan Project is important to the Philippines because the country remains agricultural.

"We're not able to harness our land resource to its full potential because of the lack of infrastructure support particularly in irrigation. The Casecnan provides the Philippines with that support," Baldwin emphasizes.

The impressive multi-purpose project is composed of two diversion structures or small dams, technically called weirs, stretching through both the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Barangay Pelaway,. Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya. The Casecnan Weir measures 38.5 meters high and 156 meters long while the Taan Weir is 21.5 meters high and 174.75 meters long. These weirs will divert water from the Casecnan and Taan rivers to the Pantabangan reservoir.

The Pantabangan almost 30 years ago, has not been fully utilized because of low water levels. With the waters diverted from the Casecnan and Taan rivers to the Pantabangan reservoir, waters at the reservoir would reach desired levels, also enabling its two hydroelectric power facilities—the Pantabangan and Masiway hydropower plants—to operate at full capacity. This would generate an additional of 603 GWh of electricity, enough to power an additional 350,000 homes annually.



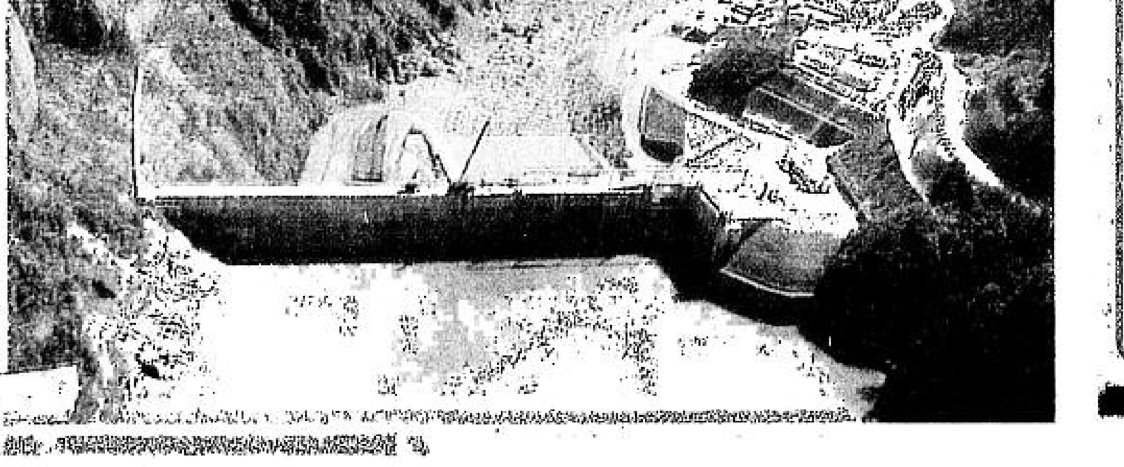
More than 800 million cubic meters of water yearly will be transported to the Pantabangan reservoir through a 26.27-km tunnel.

A desilting facility will block the passage of debris from the rivers into the tunnel, thus preventing the Pantabangan reservoir from being silted over time.

What is even more spectacular about

$650-M/ C5

The Project, which costs $650 million, is one of the largest combined irrigation and hydroelectric facilities in the world



MESSAGES

MODERNIZING Philippine agriculture is a daunting task that has become the centerpiece program in my administration's 10-year economic strategy to eliminate poverty. My focus on developing our country's agriculture is founded on the premise that only a modern agriculture sector can provide the solid foundation for our country's industrialization and development. Thus we have emphasized our determination and commitment to bring to fruition agricultural programs to ensure that we are on track with our goals.

This, among other reasons, is why I welcome the completion and inauguration of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project. Not only does it stabilize the supply of irrigation water to the Upper Pampanga River Irrigation System, which my father initiated during his presidency, the Casecnan Project will channel water to thousands of non-irrigated farmlands in Central Luzon. It is likewise expected to generate power to provide electricity to thousands of homes.

Ample irrigation will bring a substantial increase in rice production, which in turn will lead to better income for our farmers. Electricity, on the other hand, will also hasten development. This is the growth that my administration intends to accomplish—growth that benefits and empowers each and every Filipino.

I am confident that with the continued help of the private sector, like the proponents of the Casecnan Project, the daunting tasks we are facing will not be as insurmountable as they appear. Let us all continue to work together to spur development in the Philippines.

Mabuhay kayong lahat. Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THIS IS a memorable day for the thousands of farmers, including the *Bugkalots* – in Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Quirino and Aurora – being the direct beneficiaries of the Casecnan Multi-purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

Started in 1997, the CMIPP is one of the partnership models between the Philippine government and investors to undertake Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) projects that would jumpstart agricultural modernization and economic development.

We at the Department of Agriculture are proud to be a part of this landmark BOT infrastructure project – involving the construction of a 28-kilometer tunnel, an underground power house, two intake dams and related structures. When fully operational, the CMIPP will irrigate an additional 35,000 hectares of new farmlands, ensure irrigation supply for about 102,000 hectares in Central Luzon and construct additional small-scale irrigation projects, servicing some 3,000 hectares of farmlands in Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Aurora.

Undoubtedly, the completion of the Casecnan project will bring about numerous benefits – increased rice harvest, more farm-to-market roads and enhanced income and employment opportunities to the farmers, Bugkalots and residents in host communities.

We therefore commend the CMIPP operator and contractors – led by the California Energy International-Casecnan Water Energy and Co., and the CMC Di Ravenna and Pizzaroti SPA – for successfully completing this five-year project.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay.*

LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

CONGRATULATIONS to CalEnergy International and to the men and women of the National Power Corporation and the National Irrigation Administration who participated in the successful implementation of the $500-million Casecnan Multi-Purpose project.

You labored for six years and gave birth to one of the most important projects in the Philippines. This project delivers two of the most vital necessities in our lives and requirements for development – electric power and water for irrigation. This project also serves as a showcase of a successful BOT scheme in implementing government projects requiring huge investment.

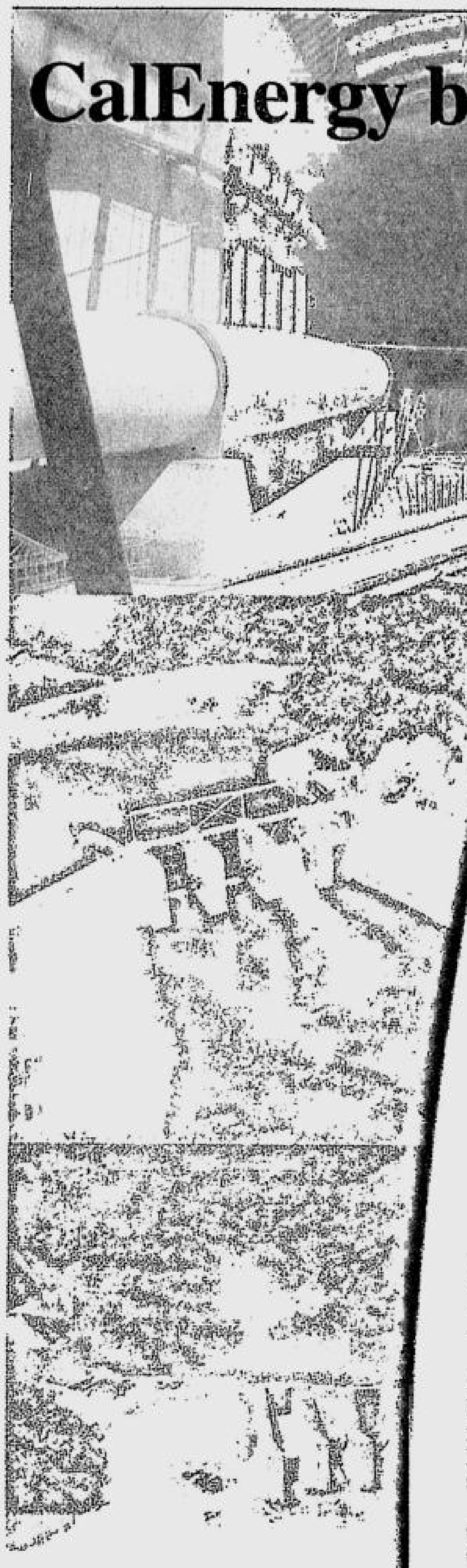
The 26-kilometer transbasin tunnel brings water from Casecnan and Taang rivers in Nueva Vizcaya all the way to Pantabangan Reservoir. With this, we would be able to irrigate 26,880 hectares of farmlands in Nueva Ecija and stabilize water supply in at least 50 percent of 102-hectare service area of Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPPRIIS) in Bulacan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija once our P3.49-billion component is fully completed.

With this project, we will be able to increase *palay* production by 8.68 million cavans per year and increase the income of 48,000 farm families in the area.

Truly, a project like this that accelerates agricultural and rural development is a very attractive instrument of eradicating poverty and promoting national economic growth. And we are thankful to CalEnergy for serving as our partner in this noble endeavor. It is my hope that the project's commissioning will only be the beginning of a long and productive relationship between CalEnergy and NIA.

JESUS EMMANUEL M. PARAS
Administrator
National Irrigation Administration

CalEnergy builds livelihood opportunities for Bugkalots



CALENERGY International, developer of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project, has implemented a comprehensive social development program for the benefit of the Bugkalots residing in five barangays in the Casecnan area, considered as the "Project Impact Zone."

Robert Eugenio, CalEnergy assistant vice president, enumerates these social development efforts as projects involving infrastructure development, livelihood programs, educational, medical and community assistance.

The barangays included in the "Project Impact Zone" are Barangays Talbec and Abaca in Dupax del Sur and Barangays Lipuga, Pelaway and Cawayan of Alfonso Castañeda town, in Nueva Vizcaya.

Eugenio says that their most important social development project for the Bugkalots is the livelihood program, the biggest of which is the Citrus Seedling Program, which involved the development of a nursery for citrus seedlings imported from California.

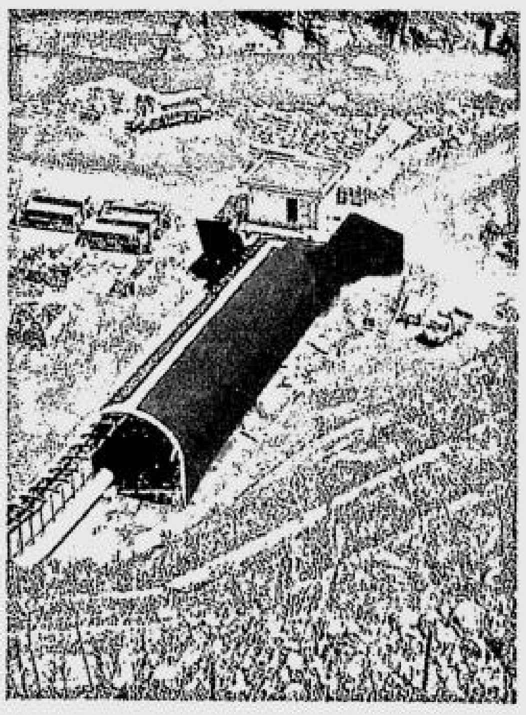
"The climate in the area is suitable for the propagation of citrus trees. It is the most sustainable means of livelihood for the Bugkalots once the construction of the Casecnan Project is finished and when there are no more direct benefits from the construction," relates Eugenio.

He says the first planting was done two years ago when about 100,000 seedlings were distributed to 300 Bugkalot families. He adds that in four years, the Bugkalots would start earning from them.

In addition, CalEnergy provides the steady supply of fertilizers and the technical assistance for the care of the citrus trees.

"Since they are not earning from them yet, we developed another livelihood project which is the rattan raw materials processing and furniture-making program," Eugenio says.

Rattan poles are abundant in the Casecnan mountains. This project has two components—the processing of rattan poles and furniture-making. The company established a manufacturing plant and bought equipment for this purpose, as well as provided the skills training. The Bugkalots are now skilled craftsmen in rattan furniture-making, who have the capacity to engage in the export business.



CalEnergy has also provided educational assistance to the Bugkalot community.

"We have high school scholars numbering about 100 yearly, the top 10 percent of whom we send to college. We also have a book donation program, a company-wide project in the Philippines. We also gave out school supplies to public elementary and high schools nationwide. In fact, we'll be distributing within the next two weeks books to Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija schools," Eugenio says.

The company also continuous to implement a medical program that enabled the Bugkalot community to avail of health services from the city hospitals.

"For the 'Project Impact Zone,' the medical program consists mostly of shouldering the medical care of the Bugkalots, from giving medicines and vitamins to the full hospitalization expenses. We also run the day care centers in the five barangays," explains Eugenio.

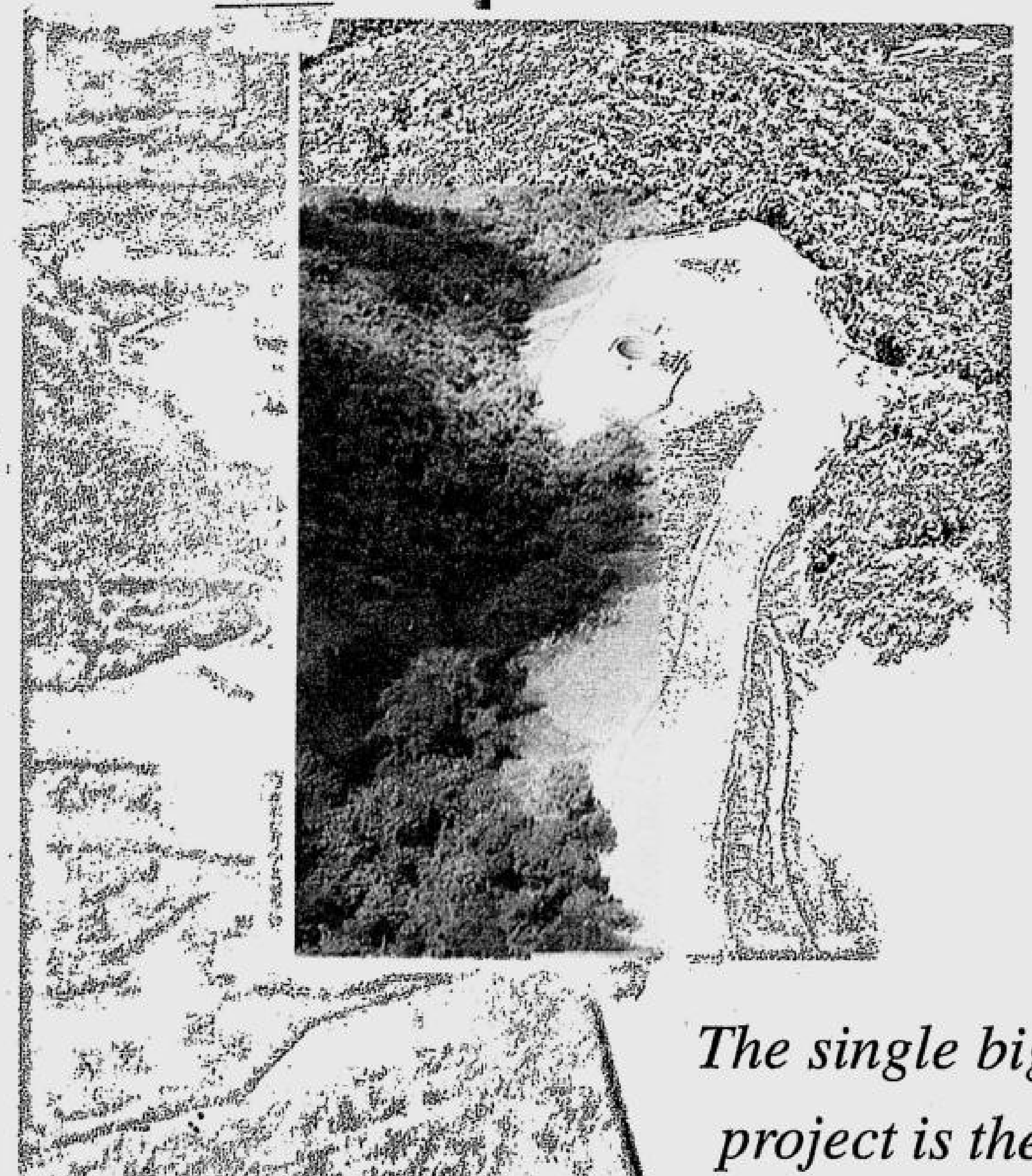
"The single biggest benefit of the project is the road that we have constructed because that gave them access to provincial or town centers. Before, it would take them three days to hike to reach the city, now it would only take them three hours," Eugenio says.

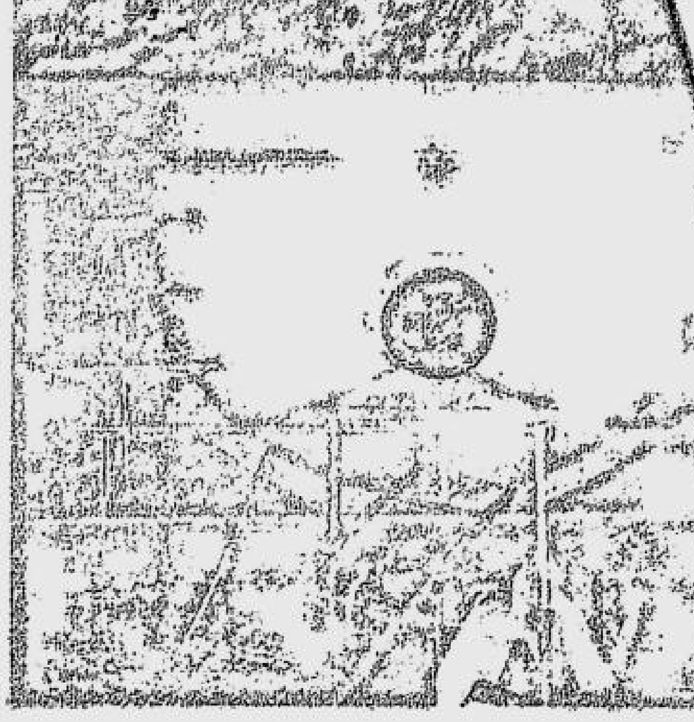
Eugenio says that CalEnergy's social action program is a continuing project.

"It is important to us because we are a responsible corporate citizen and neighbor. We consider ourselves a part of the community. Casecnan is a 20-year BOT project and we intend to continue doing projects for the community for as long as we are there. That is the way we do our business," he says.

CalEnergy is being assisted by the government-established Casecnan Social Measure Task Force, which is led by the Department of Agriculture, and the Central Luzon State University.

Joel V. Nigos





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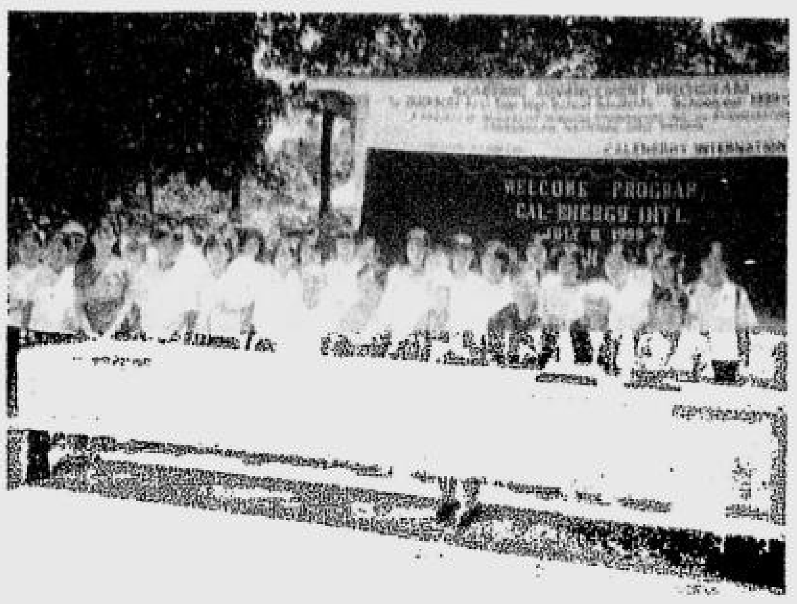
ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM
CALENERGY INTERNATIONAL
WELCOME PROGRAM
CAL-ENERGY INT'L
JULY 8 1999
MR. STEVEN G. LYONS



ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM
for BUGKALOT First Year High School Students Schoolyear 1999-2000
CALENERGY INTERNATIONAL

MESSAGES

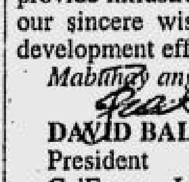
I WITNESSED the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project rise from the drawing board to reality and become one of our company's largest investments, not just in the Philippines, but also in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

It was a challenge met, but one which could not have been completed without the strong support of the Philippine government from the project's inception to its completion. We thank the Philippine government for its support and its vision of a sustainable irrigation and power source providing the impetus for growth in Central Luzon and the rest of the country.

Above all, the Casecnan Project's commissioning is a tribute to the Philippine government's resolve to modernize agriculture and enhance economic development for the Filipino people. It also highlights the importance of a strong partnership between government and the private sector in charting a common agenda for development.

CalEnergy has full confidence in the Philippines. Be assured that we will continue to be a dependable partner in efforts to spur progress in the Philippines.

DAVID L. SOKOL
Chairman and CEO
MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company



TODAY CalEnergy International starts a new chapter for the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project. After years of construction, we are officially setting the gears of the project in motion.

The inauguration of the project fulfills the long-term vision of maximizing the capacity of the Pantabangan Dam to be able to help farmers in Central Luzon increase their productivity by providing much-needed irrigation water. The project will also be able to augment the ever-increasing need for electric power that is crucial to national growth and development.

CalEnergy, in valuable partnership with the National Irrigation Administration, proudly shares the satisfaction of fulfilling this vision with the Philippine government, under the stewardship of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for the benefit of the Filipino people.

Since 1994, CalEnergy International has worked in partnership with the Philippine government in harnessing its natural resources for power generation. As the Philippines continues to provide infrastructure that improves the lives of Filipinos, it is our sincere wish to continue to take part in the country's development efforts now and in the future.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

DAVID BALDWIN
President
CalEnergy International

$650-M . . .

(From page C3)

the Project is the tunnel that will transport water to the Pantabangan reservoir. The construction of these tunnels involved more than 2,500 workers in the last six years, of which 16.357 kilometers were bored through the Caraballo mountains using Tunnel Boring Machines. Approximately 9.923 km were excavated using the drill and blast procedure. The tunnel is large enough for a locomotive to pass through.

The Casecnan Project is also a hydropower plant. It makes use of the rampaging waters as it flows into the Pantabangan reservoir for hydroelectric power by transporting it first to an underground powerhouse.

The powerhouse is 63 meters long, 23 meters in diameter and 43 meters deep. It employs two turbines with speeds of 400 rpm and each capable of generating 75 MW of power that the National Power Corporation will use to supplement electricity generated for the Luzon Grid.

This Built-Operate-Transfer project is undertaken in collaboration with the National Irrigation Administration, at no cost to the government during its six-year construction.

Upon transfer to the NIA and NPC in 2021, the Casecnan Project will continue to operate for at least 30 years. Hydroelectric facilities, because the source is renewable, commonly continue to generate (and in the case of the Casecnan, provide irrigation water) for periods in excess of 100 years.

CalEnergy and its affiliates have made a total investment of $1.4 billion in the Philippines, through the Casecnan Project and the three geothermal plants in Leyte—the Mahanagdong, Upper Mahiao and Malitbog projects—which provide electricity for Luzon and Cebu.

Cal Energy International is a subsidiary of US-based MidAmerican Holdings, which is a global leader in the production and distribution of energy from diversified fuel sources including geothermal, natural gas, hydroelectric and coal.

As a leading provider of energy services worldwide, the company sees itself as a partner of the Philippines in building vital infrastructures like the Casecnan Project and the Leyte facilities, and at the same time, maximizing its presence through increasing investments in the future.

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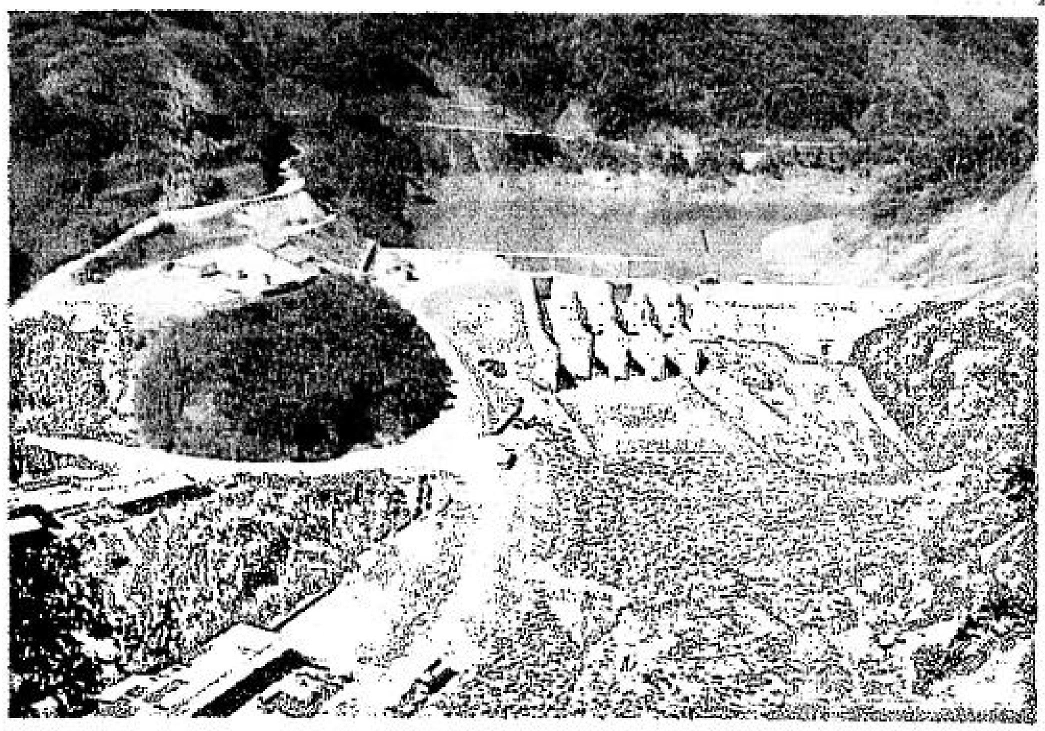
An 'environmental hallmark'

ASIDE from being one of the largest combined irrigation and hydroelectric power projects in the world, the Casecnan Project is also an environmental showcase.

David Sokol, chair and chief executive officer of US-based MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., developer of the facility, says that the Casecnan Project is not only a showcase for the Philippines but also for the entire company.

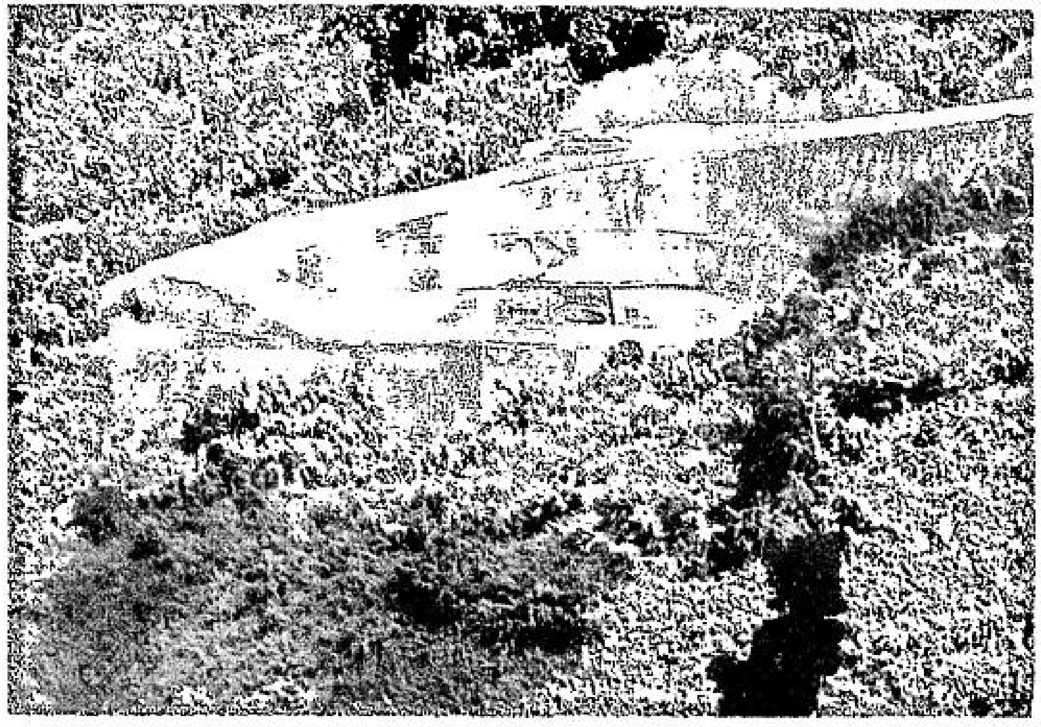
The National Irrigation Administration has always had the vision to create an infrastructure that would maximize the capability of the Pantabangan reservoir. Earlier proposals were to build high-dam structures in the Casecnan and Taan rivers. When CalEnergy was awarded the project, the high-dam plan was scrapped in favor of two diversion structures, technically called weirs.

The weirs divert water from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the Pantabangan reservoir in Nueva Ecija. The water flows through the longest underground irrigation tunnel in the Asia-Pacific which was bored through the Caraballo mountains.



"When we were in the development stage of the project, a lot of consultations were made with the Bugkalots to explain the nature of the project, its benefits, and its minimal effects on the environment," says Robert Eugenio, CalEnergy assistant vice president.

The National Irrigation Administration has always had the vision to create an infrastructure that would maximize the capability of the Pantabangan reservoir

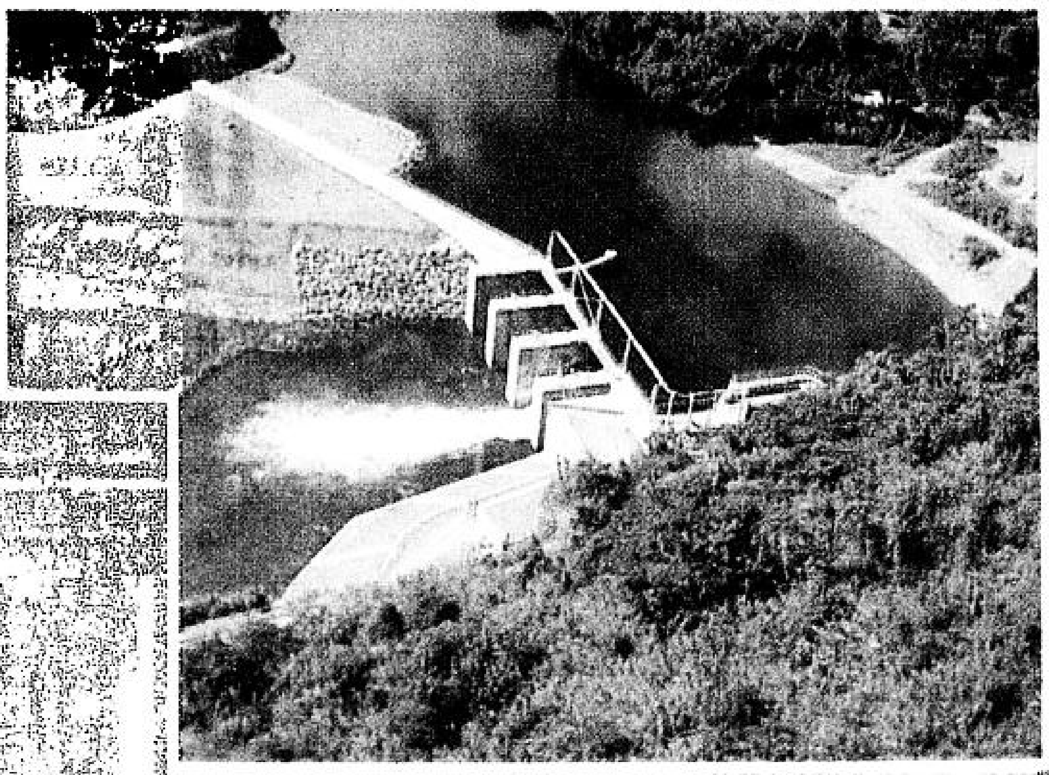


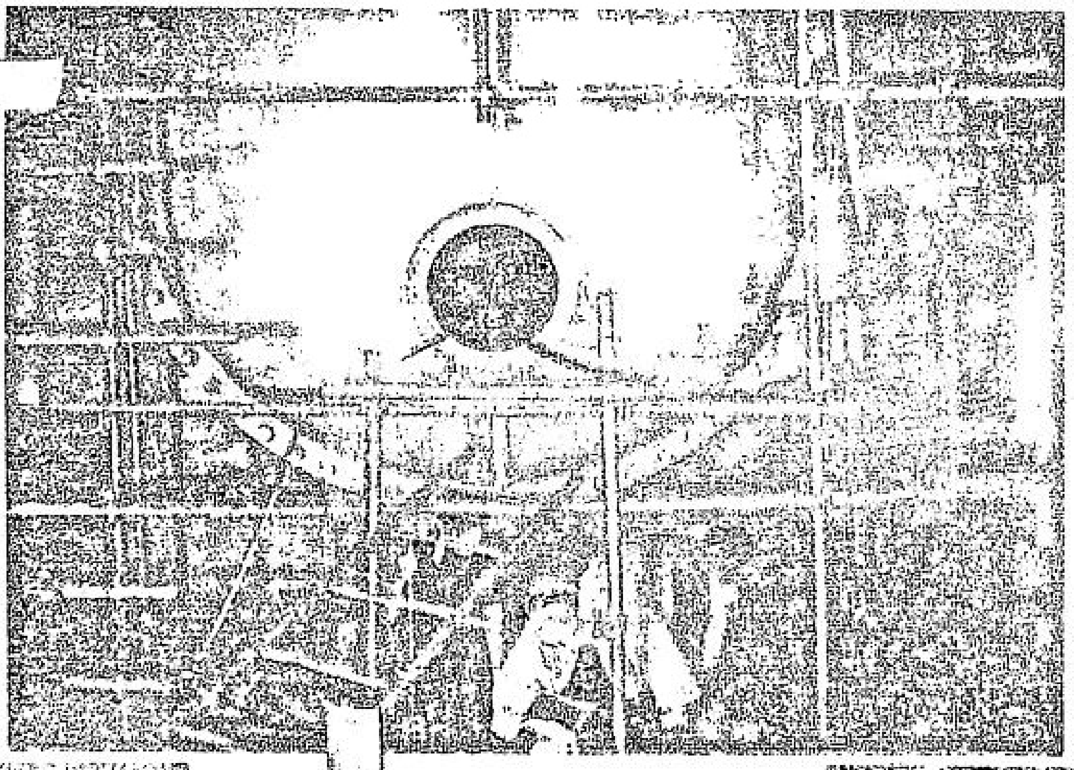
Highlights of the Project include a mechanism that prevents silt from traveling into the tunnel before it flows out to the Pantabangan reservoir. The five underground chambers make sure that no silt is added or taken from the river other than what was already present.

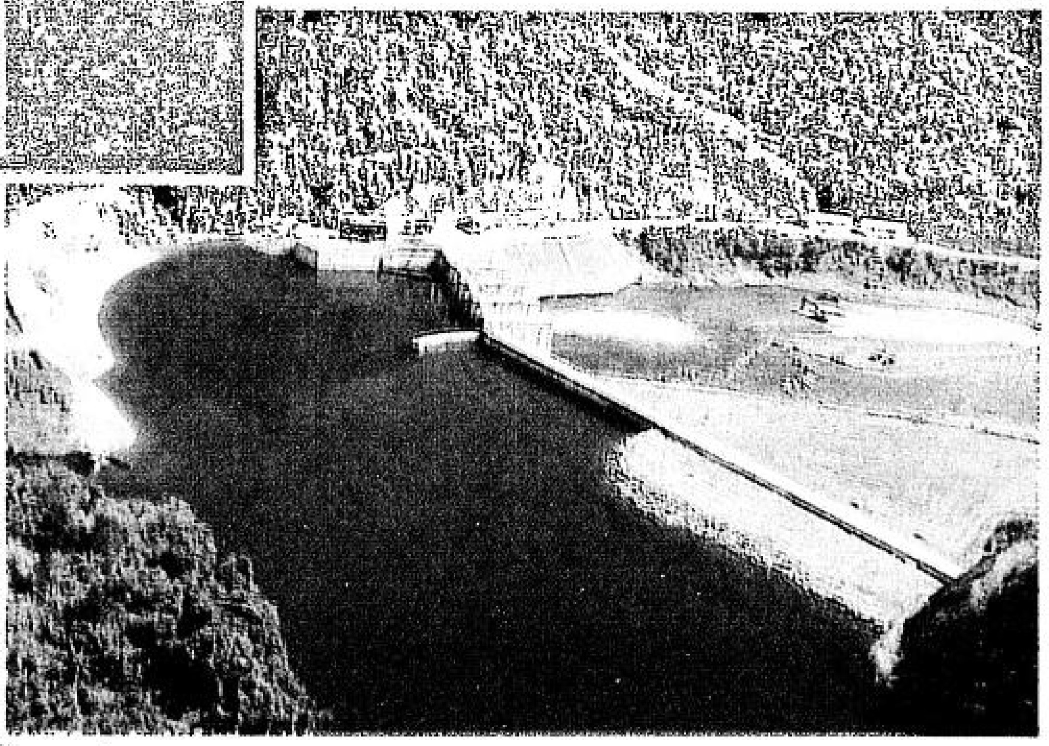
"What is remarkable about the Project is that most of the structures are built underground to preserve the original topography of the area. Citrus trees were also planted in the land areas earlier excavated for construction to revegetate the area," Eugenio explains.

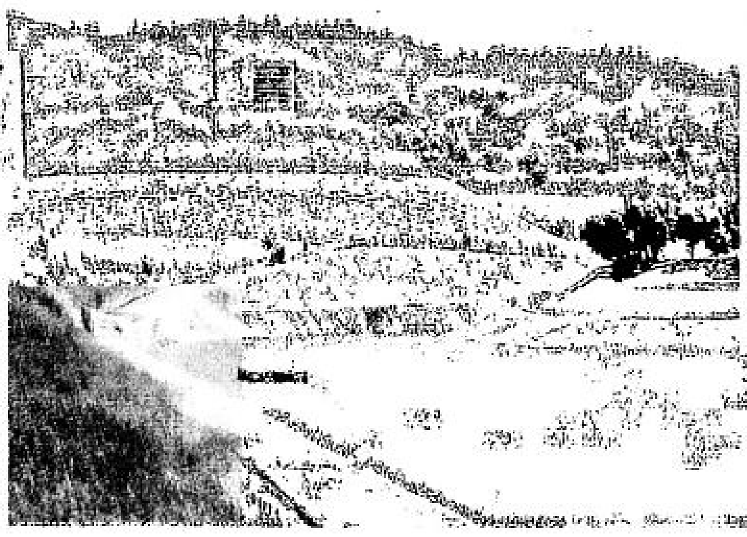
Sokol says that careful planning and construction has made the project both efficient and significantly beneficial to the lifestyle of the Filipino people for years to come.

"Responsible environmental management is at the heart of our business. This commitment benefits our customers and improves the quality of the environment in which we live," Sokol stresses.









Formula for hard times: *Patong x ikot x laway*

(From page C1)

ing the ways of business development under AIM's Master in Entrepreneurship course which he co-founded.

MORATO

Morato says during these times "we advise entrepreneurs to be more creative in strategizing. They should convey to customers that they give value for money."

He admits that there are certain commodities that are immune to a crunch—sales of basic products will always go up for as long as the population is growing. Which is why he says many multinational firms will continue to thrive.

These MNCs have discovered of course that packaging has a lot to do with sales—smaller packs are needed in developing countries like the Philippines.

Even the middle market is always looking for good bargains. They are the ones who tend to postpone purchases and have to be convinced that what they are getting is a good buy.

And now for the formula that even Mawanay would likely understand—*patong* x *ikot* x *laway*, where *patong* is contribution margin (or *tubo* or mark-up); *ikot* is turnover and *laway* is suppliers' credit.

The most decadent portion in the dean's mathematical analogy is apparently taken from the Filipino adage "*tubong laway*," which roughly translates to the practice of making profits using other people's money.

Morato says an entrepreneur selling several goods must review his products and find out which ones are giving the most profits. He should drop those that tie up the cash.

He cites a businessman who carried over 150 items in his store but after analyzing his product line, he found that only 50 of the products accounted for 95 percent of sales. The rest stayed too long in the shelves resulting in increased inventory costs.

The businessman dropped the 100 products and concentrated on the 50. Morato says products with high contribution margins (*patong*), high turnover (*ikot*) and high level of supplier's credit (*laway*) are the good products to carry.

Observing that entrepreneurs are afflicted with an "expansion syndrome," Morato cautions against expanding the business without considering the effect of the expansion on sales.

"You reach a period of diminishing returns," he says. "You get caught in the treadmill. You watch out for the sales per branch and you realize sometimes that after 10 branches, your sales did not increase substantially anymore."

Morato further advises entrepreneurs to keep track of their production indices and to strengthen their monitoring systems.

"Study financial accounting," he quips. "I tell entrepreneurs to fire their bookkeepers and get good accountants."

Finances is an area not too many entrepreneurs pay attention to but this is one area that can make or break a business.

Morato says a good entrepreneur must have four characteristics: time, *tiyaga* (patience), *malasakit* (compassion), *dunong* (intellect and ability).

He says if you go into business, you should have the time for it. You may have the money but if you do not have the time to run the business, it is not likely to prosper. You have to look at each aspect of the business—the inventory, the sale that is transacted. And you have to understand your costs and accounting in general.

Morato admits he himself tried entrepreneurship but realized it is not for him. He set up a photo shop and a printing outfit a few years back.

But he says he did not have the time to run the businesses nor the patience to collect from delinquent clients. He sold the ventures. To this day, both are still operational.

Besides, he adds, he earns more from his consultancy, where the only asset he has is the one on top of his body.

The entrepreneur's guru has been teaching for decades and his love for the profession started in college when he would lecture to his peers. When he was at the AIM he would facilitate the discussions at midnight and prepare his classmates for the day's cases.

He says he did not like studying when he was younger because he found his textbooks uninteresting. This was probably why he has written 10 books, which are being used at the AIM.

But his intellect was seen even as a child. He read the entire set of encyclopedia his mother bought. He says he got his academic skills from his mother's family, the Aragon-Angara side.

From his father and his grandfather, Tomas Morato, he got his entrepreneurial know-how. His gift of gab is from his father who would relate very interesting stories when he was young.

His passion these days includes gardening, photography, writing poems and painting. He sings too, having been a member of the Ambivalent Crowd.

And he has not finished studying; he is finalizing his dissertation in Public Administration at the University of the Philippines.

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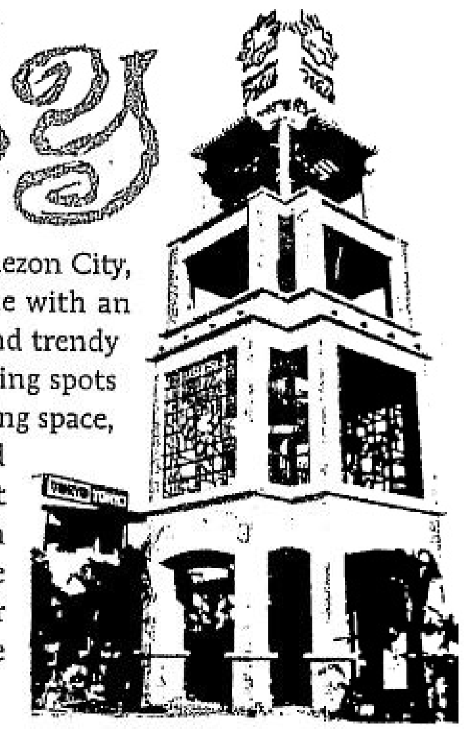
Eastwood City
Walk

Flavors of the City

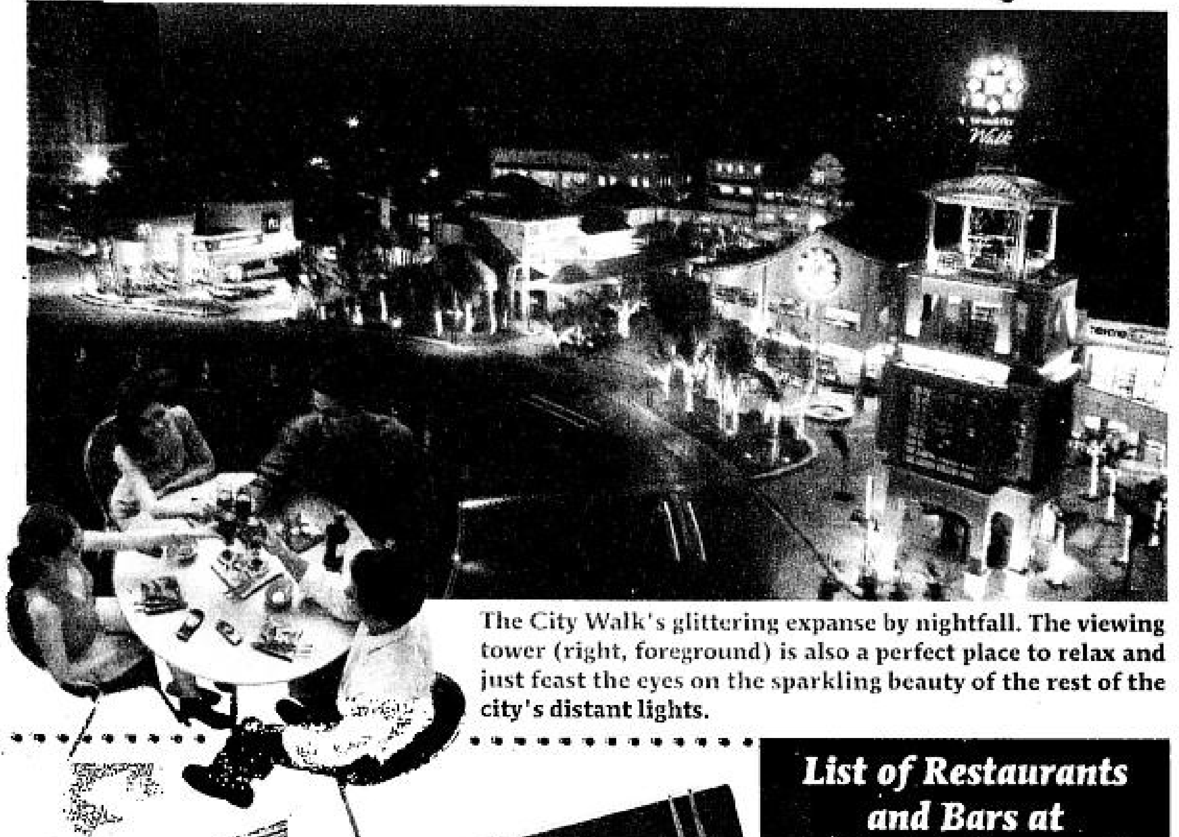
Upscale and "wired," Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City, completes its concept of a convergent lifestyle with an exciting entertainment and dining hub: the hip and trendy Eastwood City Walk. With an array of bars and dining spots for various tastes, a lush streetscape and ample parking space, City Walk gives people from nearby tony villages and schools and yuppies at the CyberPark all the best reasons to fill up and cool out. Enjoy a power lunch or a dazzling nightlife. Have fun or be fab. All at the heart of an emerging e-City, as City Walk wraps your senses with the heady, the delicious, the irresistible pulses of the good life.


A five-story-high tower, easily seen from as far as C-5, is both a viewing tower for curious visitors and a landmark that gleams at night. The tower affords a commanding view of Eastwood City and its environs while the ground floor can stage small-scale cultural events.

The nearby fountain's gossamer sprays freshen the air as *al fresco* diners enjoy a relaxing afternoon. The roads, embellished by a beautiful pattern of marble and granite and dappled by the cool shade of palm trees, make promenading a pleasant experience.

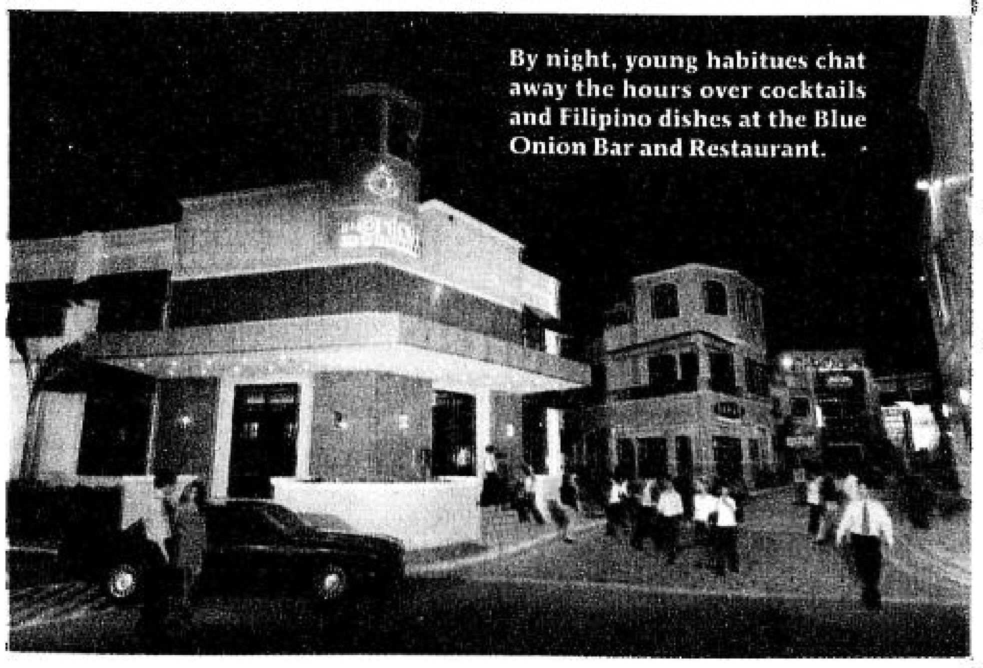
From Via Mare's balcony, the views go well with a hearty meal: the pavement mottled by the fountains' cascading waters and the breeze slightly perfumed by flower-bearing trees.

The outdoor theater, cradled by the Water Plaza, is fast becoming the venue of choice for trendy gigs, festivals and concerts that can accommodate up to a thousand people. Enlivened by an elegant water feature—a reflective pool that bubbles up into little fountains—and cooled by trees such as *acacia, narra, champaca, balete* and a number of palm species, this center can be seen from any of the City Walk's circumscribing restaurants.


The City Walk's glittering expanse by nightfall. The viewing tower (right, foreground) is also a perfect place to relax and just feast the eyes on the sparkling beauty of the rest of the city's distant lights.

A chic ambience, delectable dishes, bubbly booze, a diversity of sounds and interesting people—A Twist of Mingoy's offers a perfect nightlife. Just one of the restaurants that make the City Walk a place to go after sundown.

By day, sports bar and restaurant Bargo takes on an unmistakably Californian atmosphere.


By night, young habitues chat away the hours over cocktails and Filipino dishes at the Blue Onion Bar and Restaurant.

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List of Restaurants and Bars at Eastwood City Walk:

Casual/Fine Dining:

Macau
Mama Rosa
Mongolian Feast
Mystic Grill
Pho Hoa
Twist of Mingoy's
Via Mare
West Lake

Fast Food:

Delifrance
Fazoli's
McDonald's
Subway
Tokyo Tokyo

Bars:

Bargo
Blue Onion
Chicago Roadhouse
Ipanema

Café:

Seattle's Best Coffee

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

FAMILY FUN FAIR
@ Eastwood City Walk

The magicians are back. And so are the clowns, puppeteers and family activities, such as Velcro Wall and Bunjee Run games, as the second Family Fun Fair hits the City Walk Water Plaza this Sunday, October 14.

More surprises and activities that will surely delight the young and old, capped by a dazzling fireworks display at 7 p.m. Best of all, it's at City Walk, where the best dining places combine with a festive atmosphere for a perfect family weekend.

Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), Quezon City.

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

PORTALS created by wooden panels frame accents, artworks and ornaments. Here, a series of floral arrangements animates the space.

One design step ahead

A work in progress by Ed Calma is a testament to simple, progressive design

(Story on page D2)

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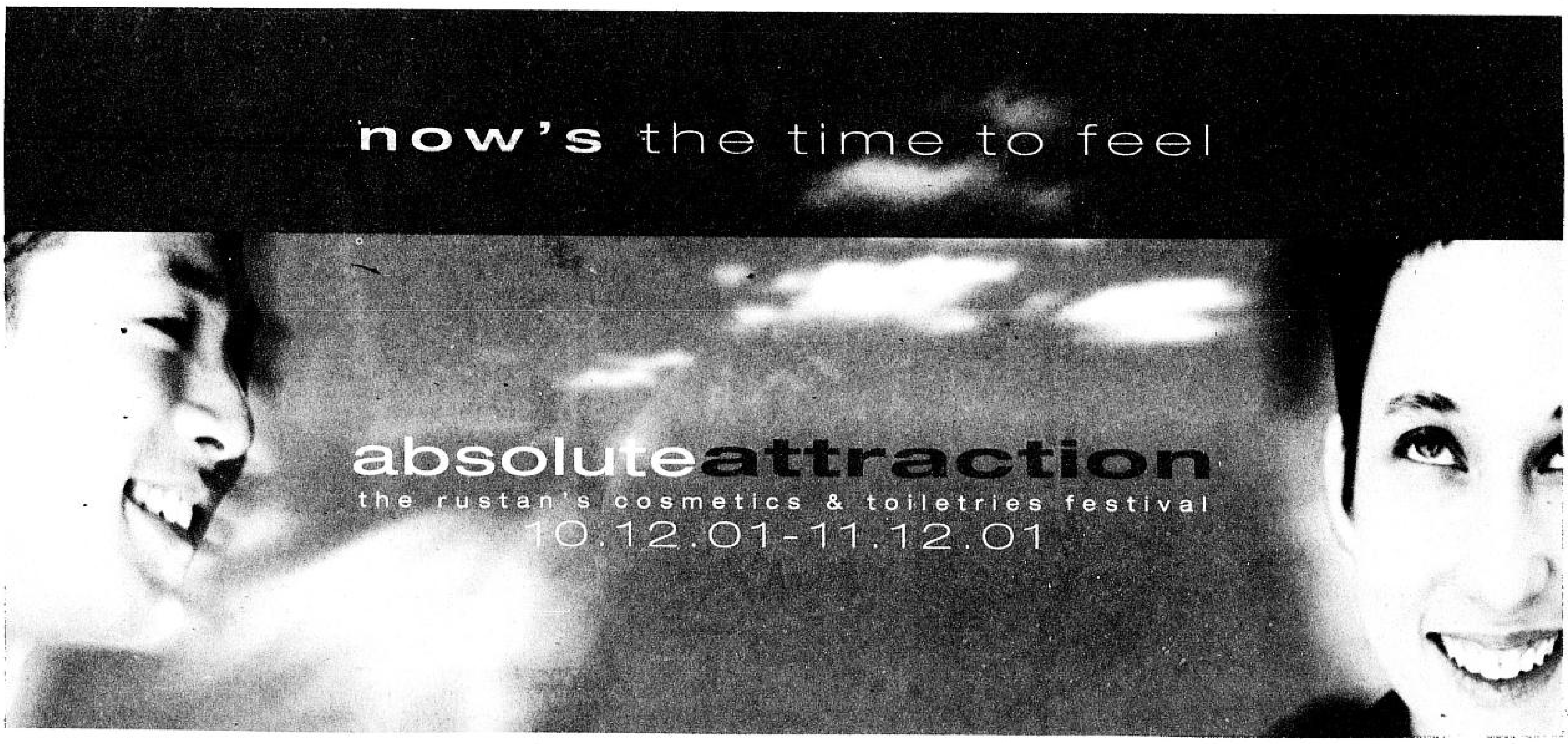
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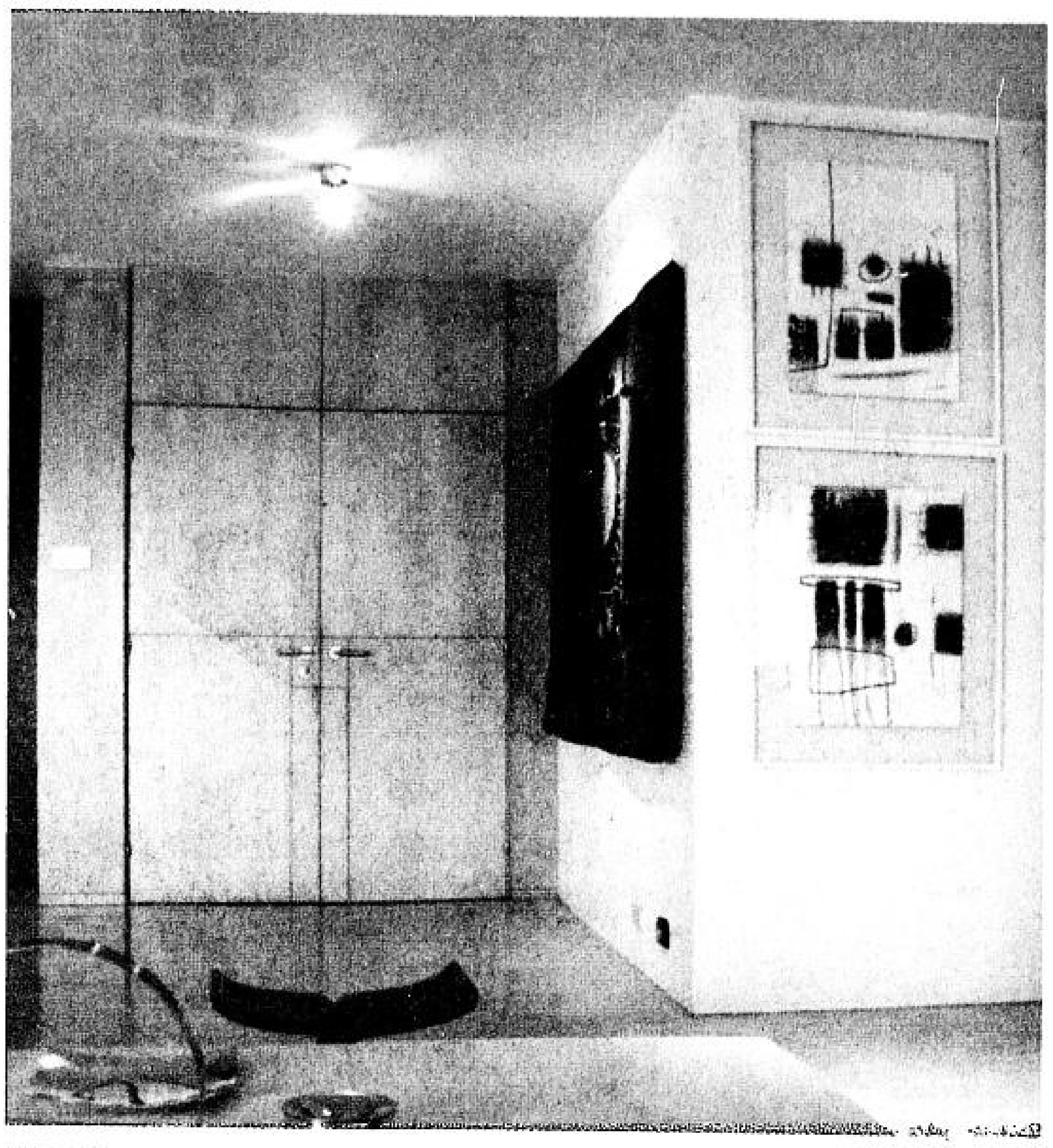


THE FOYER greets with its bright-colored Alcuaz tapestry, one of the artist's prized works while in Czechoslovakia. A pair of Lex Calip paintings inspires the master of the house. Very distinct is the paneled front door.

One design step ahead

By Cathy Saldaña-Nolido
Photos by Chito Vecina
Conceptualization by Albert Avellana

WHEN the design intent is clear and the execution is consistent, technique and innovation, in their purest forms, are ever present. In this three-bedroom flat in the city's financial and commercial center, designer Ed Calma's clear-cut creativity defines the direction. There is a signature that quietly cuts through the entire interiors, which dovetails however with the occupants' (names withheld upon request) aspirations.

With a preferential option for volumes and lines that are crisp and clean, with a skill that bridges the gap between the architect's artistry and the worker's craftsmanship, Ed works around space not simply to wrap or adorn it, but to define and regenerate it. It is a technique that he knows too well, having honed his skills in New York, the design mecca of the world, where cultural influences meet and fuse together. After completing a degree in architecture at Pratt, he moved on to finish his master's at Columbia University, with several years tucked in working for leading New York-based designers Peter Pran and Carlos Zapata. The result of his training is reflected in his work, be it in a high-rise building in Mindanao, a residence in Alabang or in a commissioned interior work.

Ed's training in NY centered on institutional buildings, as he helped conceptualize and oversee hospitals and large-scale buildings. This dexterity with massive volumes is extended to the interiors, where he meaningfully manipulates space using wood, wrought iron, glass and steel.

Warm corners

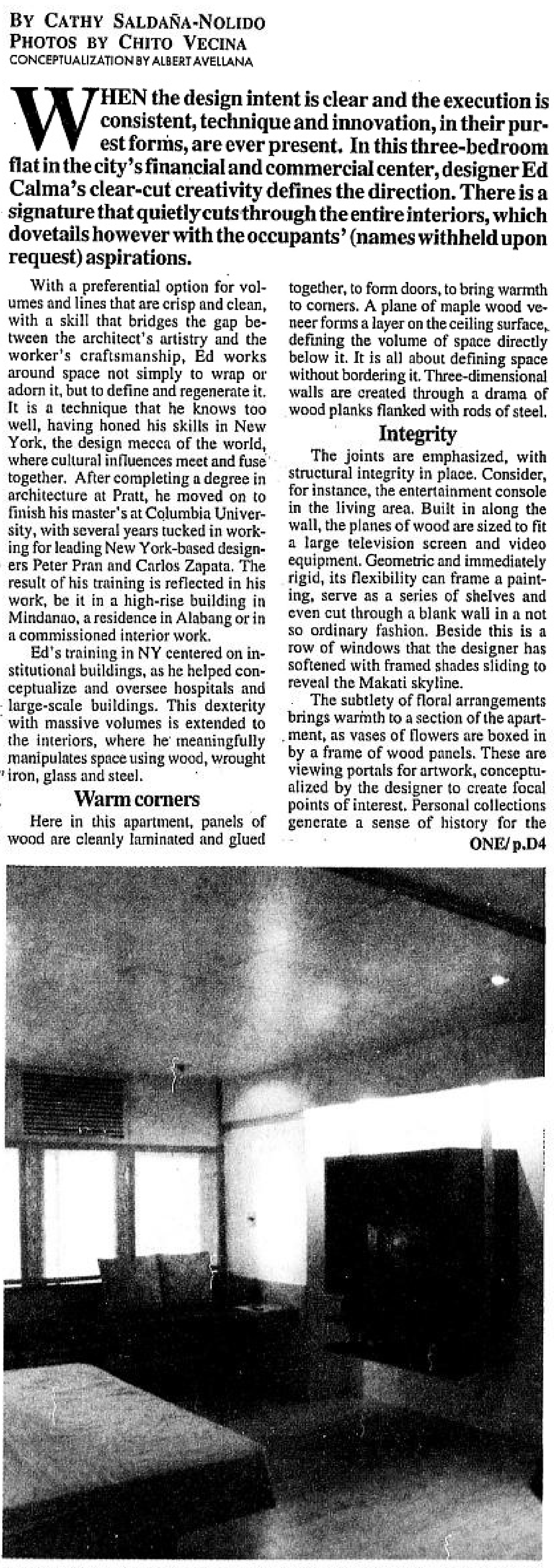
Here in this apartment, panels of wood are cleanly laminated and glued together, to form doors, to bring warmth to corners. A plane of maple wood veneer forms a layer on the ceiling surface, defining the volume of space directly below it. It is all about defining space without bordering it. Three-dimensional walls are created through a drama of wood planks flanked with rods of steel.

Integrity

The joints are emphasized, with structural integrity in place. Consider, for instance, the entertainment console in the living area. Built in along the wall, the planes of wood are sized to fit a large television screen and video equipment. Geometric and immediately rigid, its flexibility can frame a painting, serve as a series of shelves and even cut through a blank wall in a not so ordinary fashion. Beside this is a row of windows that the designer has softened with framed shades sliding to reveal the Makati skyline.

The subtlety of floral arrangements brings warmth to a section of the apartment, as vases of flowers are boxed in by a frame of wood panels. These are viewing portals for artwork, conceptualized by the designer to create focal points of interest. Personal collections generate a sense of history for the

ONE/ p.D4



THE MASTER bedroom TV is mounted on a series of wooden panels suspended from metal bars and anchored on the wall. A narrow sofa is built-in by the window, with a bookshelf below it.

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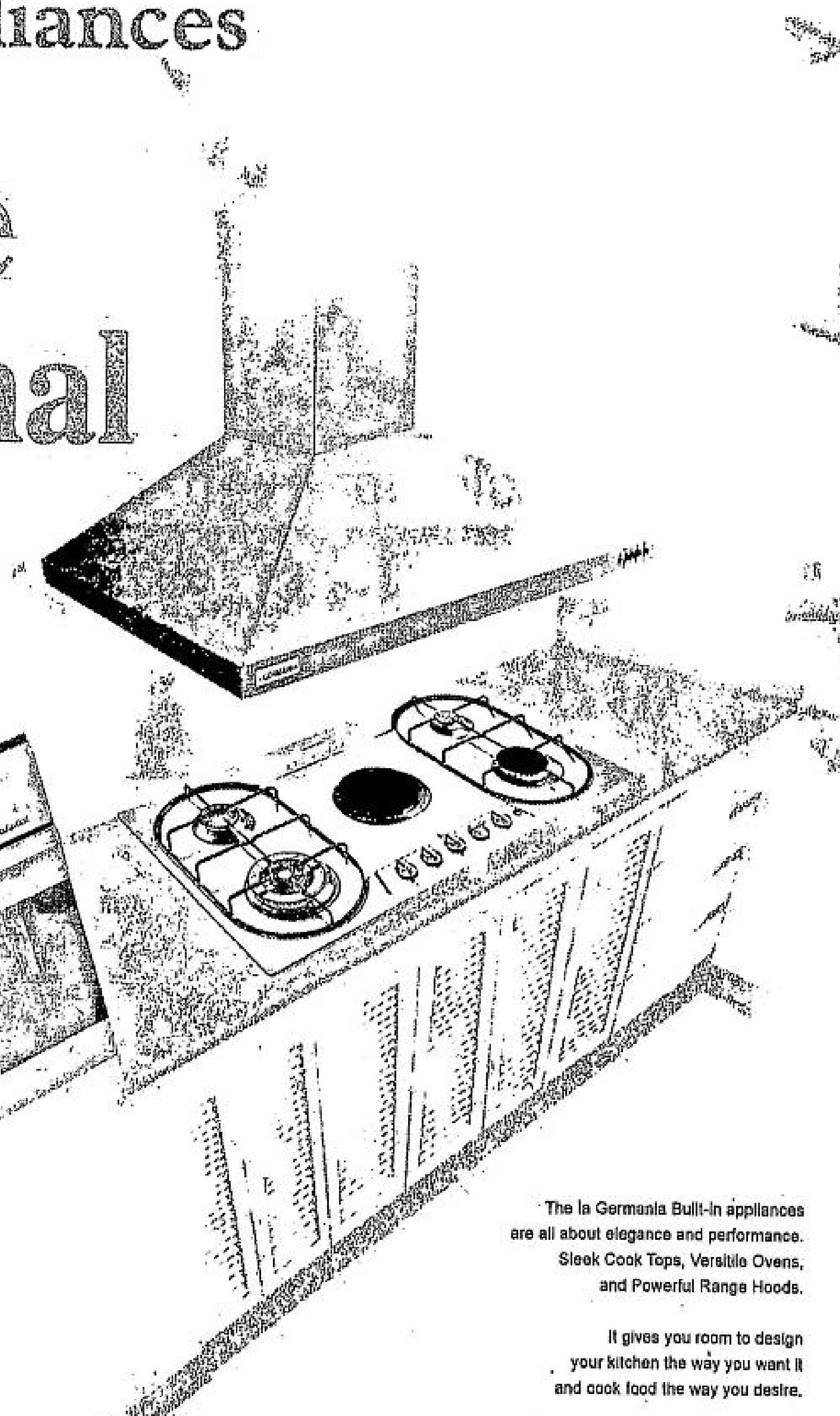

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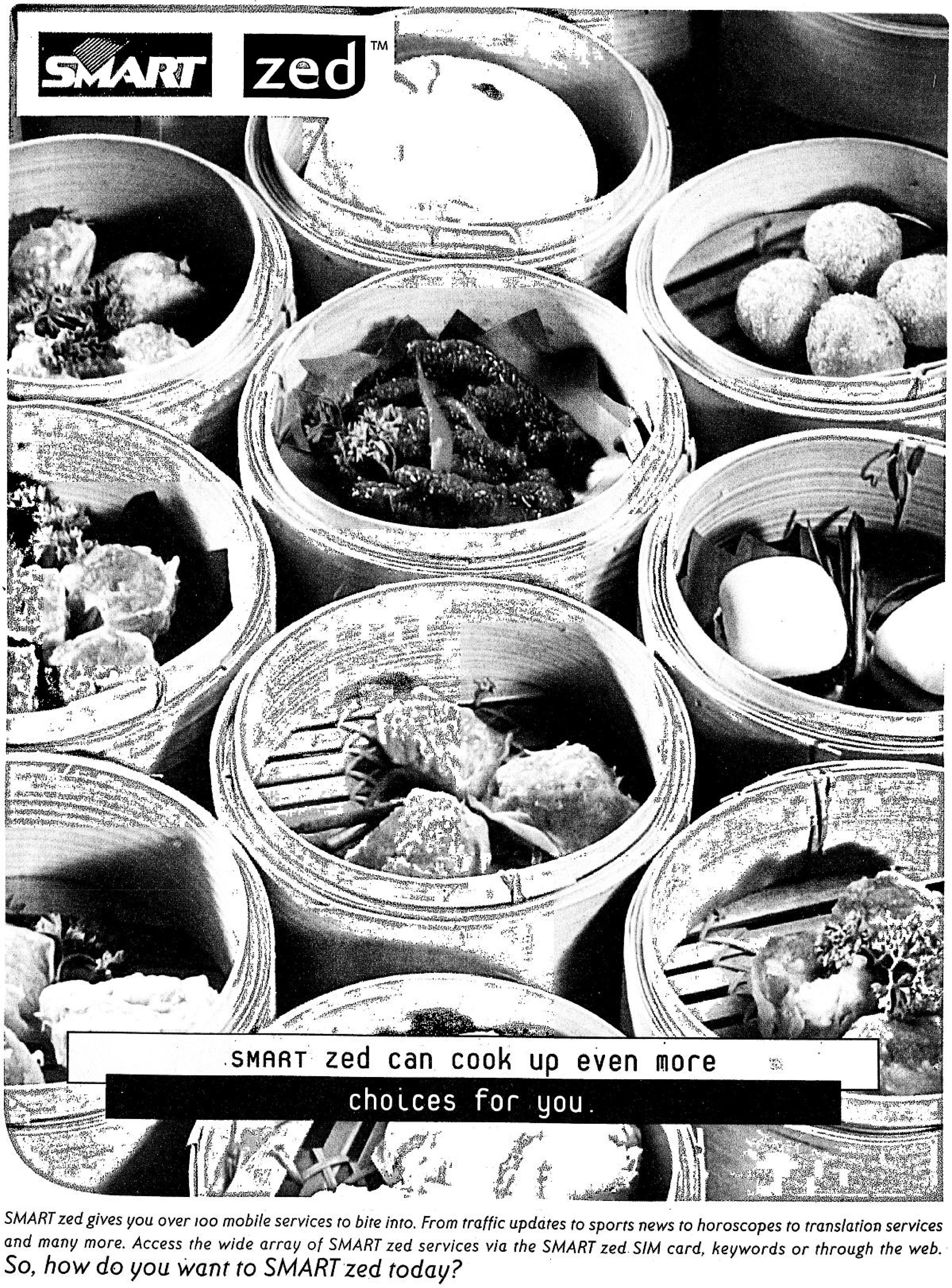
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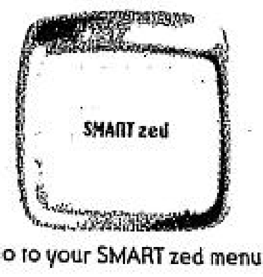

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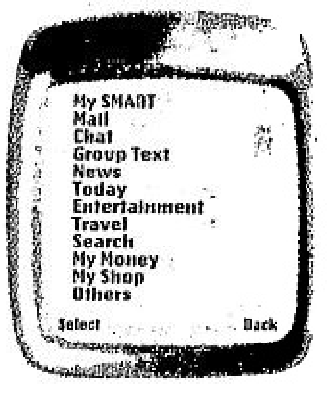
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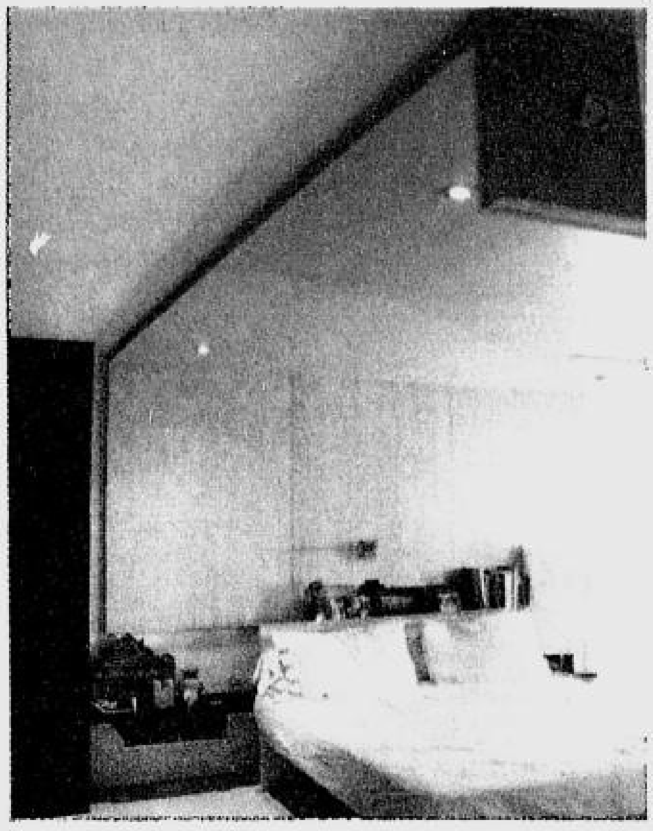
One design step ahead

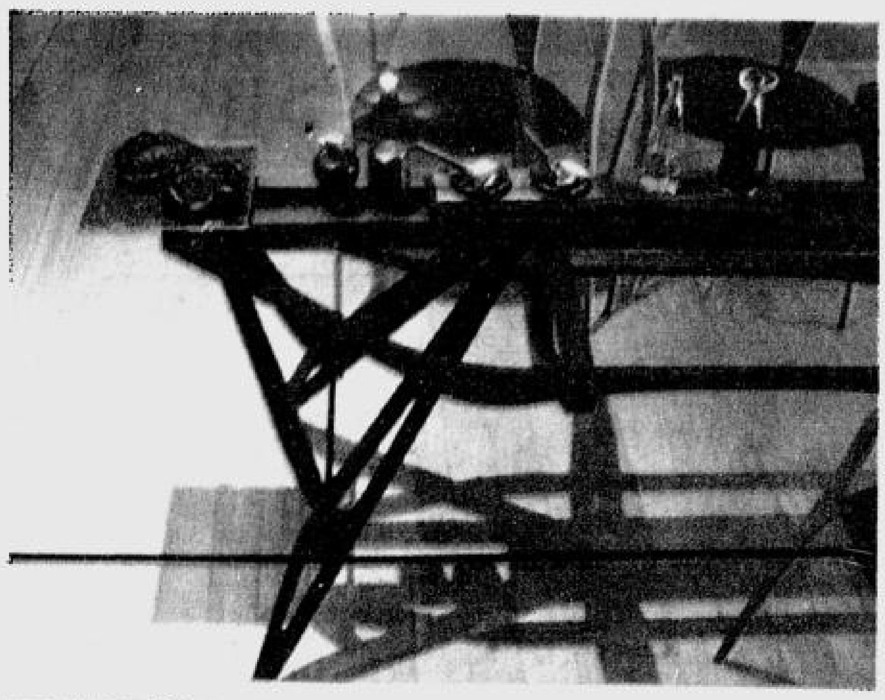


THE CEILING panels seem to fold into the bed, as this streamlined arrangement of panels merges with a functional headboard piece.

(From page D1)

owner as paintings and favorite *objets d'art* are clustered together to cut through the lines and sharp volumes, softening the edges of tables, enveloping gleaming glass tops and polished wood surfaces with textures of pottery and terra cotta, metal and wicker. A touch of wit is evident in the trio of vase holder rods propped in one living area corner. Bought in Paris, the tension rods balance themselves perfectly from the floor to the ceiling, creating a corner of bent vertical lines that delight and invite questioning. A stunning photograph by Jaime Zobel is laminated on three different planes of glass, showing relief details of sand in its elemental form. Black and white frames echoing a top view of an urban design inspire the man of the house in his work.

The dominant use of steel—brushed, stainless, painted black—combines well with wood panels for wall enclosures, for supporting glass dividers, for creating a one-piece bathroom sink where side bars for hanging towels and soap are integrated. Merging materials together is one of Ed's strengths. He goes through the deliberate process of making patterns and checking the fabrications in their steel workshop. For this particular project, the details are carefully wrought together in the bathrooms, where, alongside lavatory pieces designed by Philippe Starck, slabs of local marble are combined with sheets of sandblasted glass. The fabricated sinks become a central piece. In the bedrooms, in the kitchen and in the guestroom, generous panels of cabinets are provided for storage, with the cabinets cleverly blending into the wall segments. Function is of utmost concern. Lighting is not decorative. It is directional, practical and devoid of ornamental factors that clutter the lines above human height



A DINING table designed by Carlo Molino shows attention to joints, structural details and connections. On top of the glass are various functional pieces, designer-fabricated.

Not flat

While decidedly modern, the spaces are never flat, as there is always a detail on the wall, the furniture or the ceiling; the details beckon the eye for a visual party. Minimalist is not an apt description for this inventive approach. Progressive design is quite more like it. It is the creation of a setting that goes beyond today's lines. It is paring down and simplifying, with cutting techniques and manipulations of spaces that are altogether geometric, basic and unruffled. It is more about technique and innovation, rather than styling.

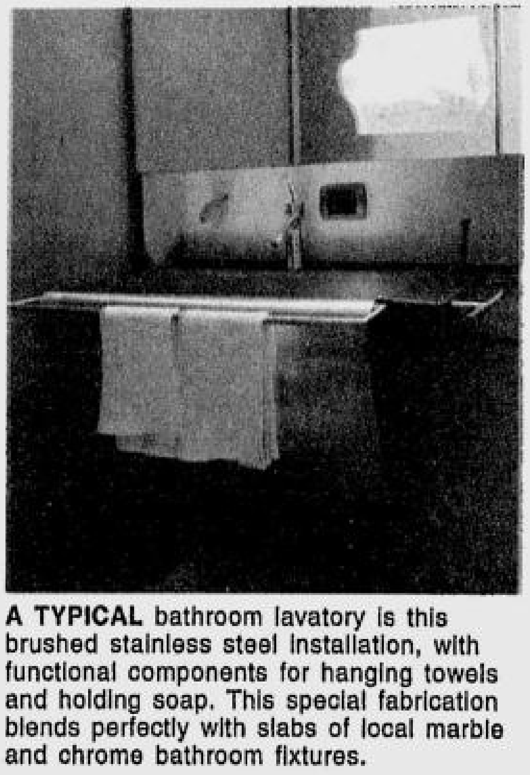
In many design projects, the character is identified clearly as tropical, retro, modern, Mediterranean, distinctly Asian or pure Filipino. These are all classics that are continuously being embraced and wonderfully reinvented, blazing with character and persona that can only come from the synergy of occupant and designer. But in this high-rise flat in the commercial district, Ed embraces progressive designing that is one design step ahead of the times.

As we are all being called towards simplifying our lives, as we are inspired to cut down what is unnecessary in our lifestyles, here is a design statement bridging that concept. It presents the mastery of Ed's space.

But just as in all design nuances, it is still the warmth of the resident couple or family that renders character to the home. While indeed there are bursts of colors everywhere, from Alcuaz's painting in the foyer to the accents iridescent on the dining table, it is still the brilliance of a little daughter's crayon sketches pasted on a sandblasted glass wall that represent total and complete humanized space.

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org

A TRIO of tension rods, bought in Paris, holds glass floral vases. A stopper from below keeps the water in.



A TYPICAL bathroom lavatory is this brushed stainless steel installation, with functional components for hanging towels and holding soap. This special fabrication blends perfectly with slabs of local marble and chrome bathroom fixtures.

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Garden show winners announced

WINNERS in the ongoing Los Baños Orchid Society flower and garden show had been announced by Dr. Jean Lasap, president and overall chair.

The show, being held at the Social Garden Center, UP Los Baños compound, will end Oct. 14.

Winners of the individual plant competition are: Best Flowering Shrub, *Medinilla sp.* by Myrna Orticio; Best Aroid, variegated *Spathiphyllum sp.* by V.S. Orchids; Best Fern, Jen Jen fern by Mable Chua; Best Bromeliad, *Neo sanderiana* by Linda Lim; Best Variegated plant, *Geranium sp.* by Sonia Belen; Best Flowering tree, *Xanthosthemon berdugoniasis* by Bonifacio Trees and Green. Orticio's Medinilla also received the Best Plant in Show award.

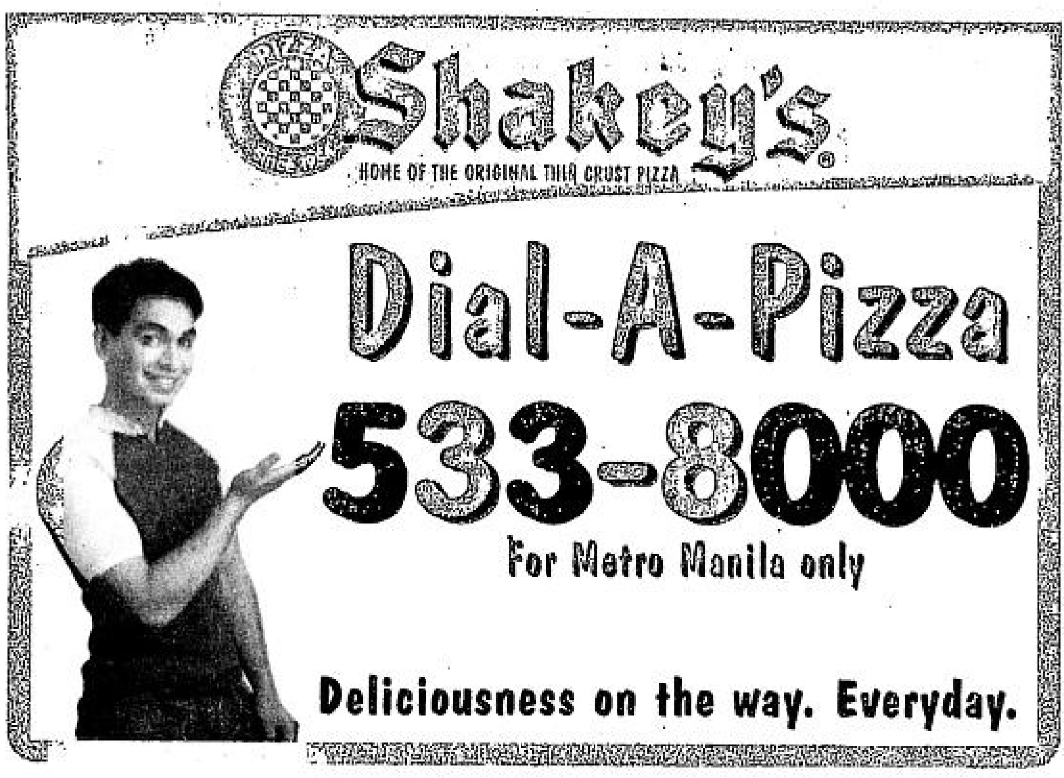
In the orchid category, winners were: Best Phalaenopsis, P. Brother Lancer by Mabuhay Orchids; Best Dendrobium, D. Palolo Sunshine by Mable Chua; Best Vanda, V. Manisaki by C.V. Lazaro; Best Other Genera, Colm Wildcat Red by Mabuhay Orchids; and Best Philippine Species, Lamellata remedioci by Jean Lasap. Winners in the booth category: Virmasol Garden, first prize in the large category and also Most Outstanding; Tess Dotig in the medium category, and Sonia Belen in the small category.

Meanwhile, terrarium (gardening inside glass case), an eco-friendly home décor, will be on display during the bazaar sale under the auspices of the Philippines-Japan Ladies Association, at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City on Oct. 14.

The bazaar will also offer Christmas décor, art crafts, toys, health and beauty products, imported clothing and Japanese products at bargain prices.

Rare stone show

SIX members of the Natural Stone Society of the Philippines represented the country in the Fifth China and International Shanghai Show in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China Sept. 27 to Oct. 1. Photo shows (from left) Mayet Gupit, Fely Gupit (head of the delegation), Serapion S. Metilla, George Yao, Yumie Gupit and Aurora Yao. Aside from the Philippines, 15 other countries participated in the rare stone show.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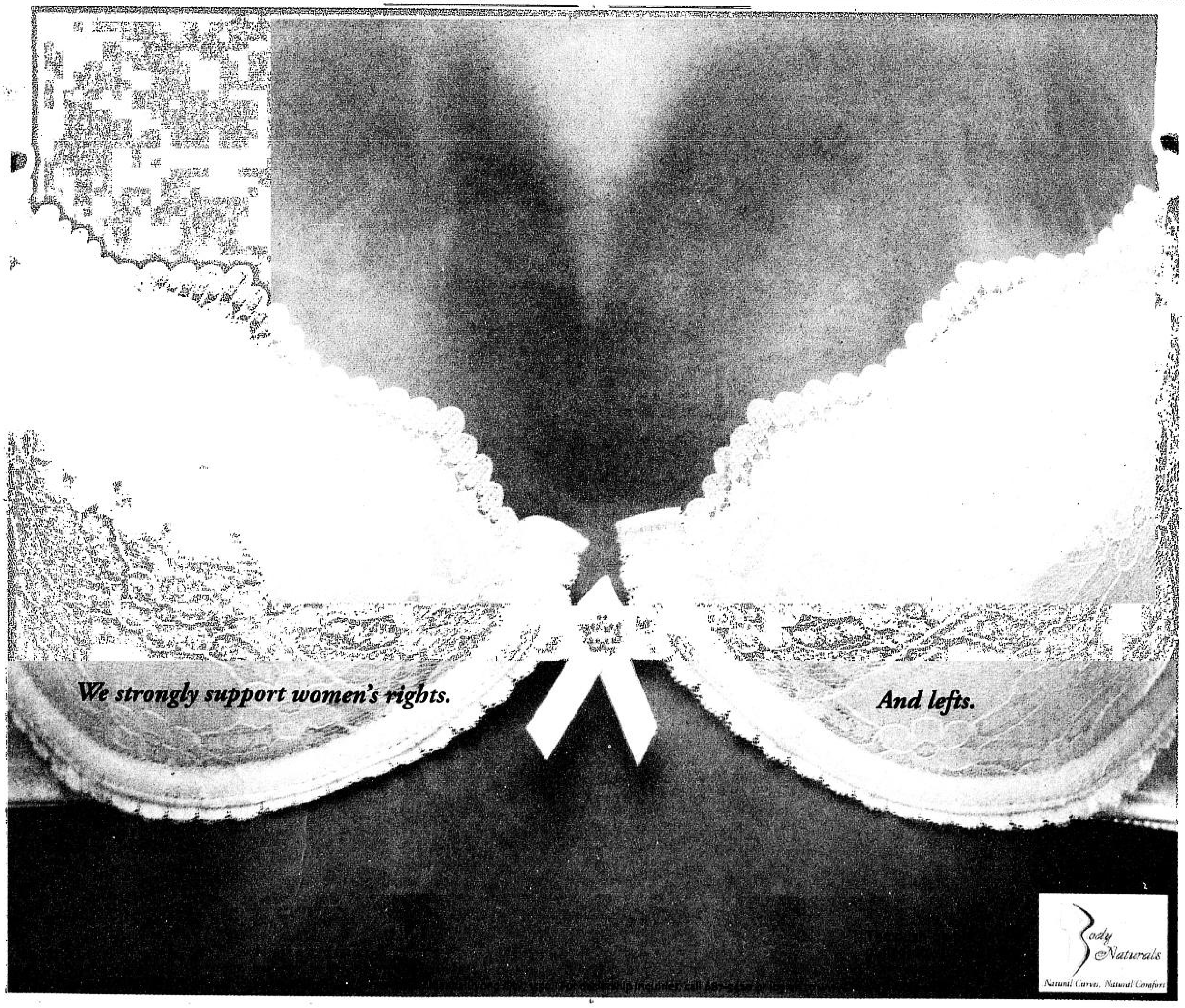
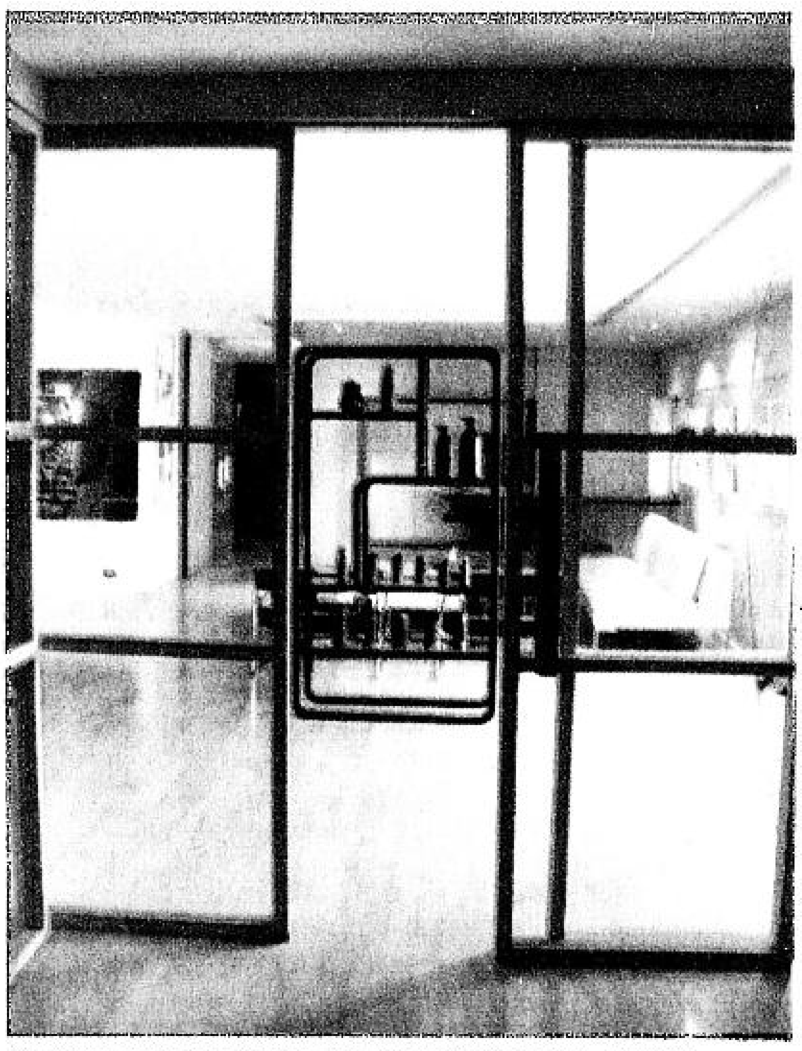

We strongly support women's rights.
And lefts.
Body Naturals
Natural Curves. Natural Comfort

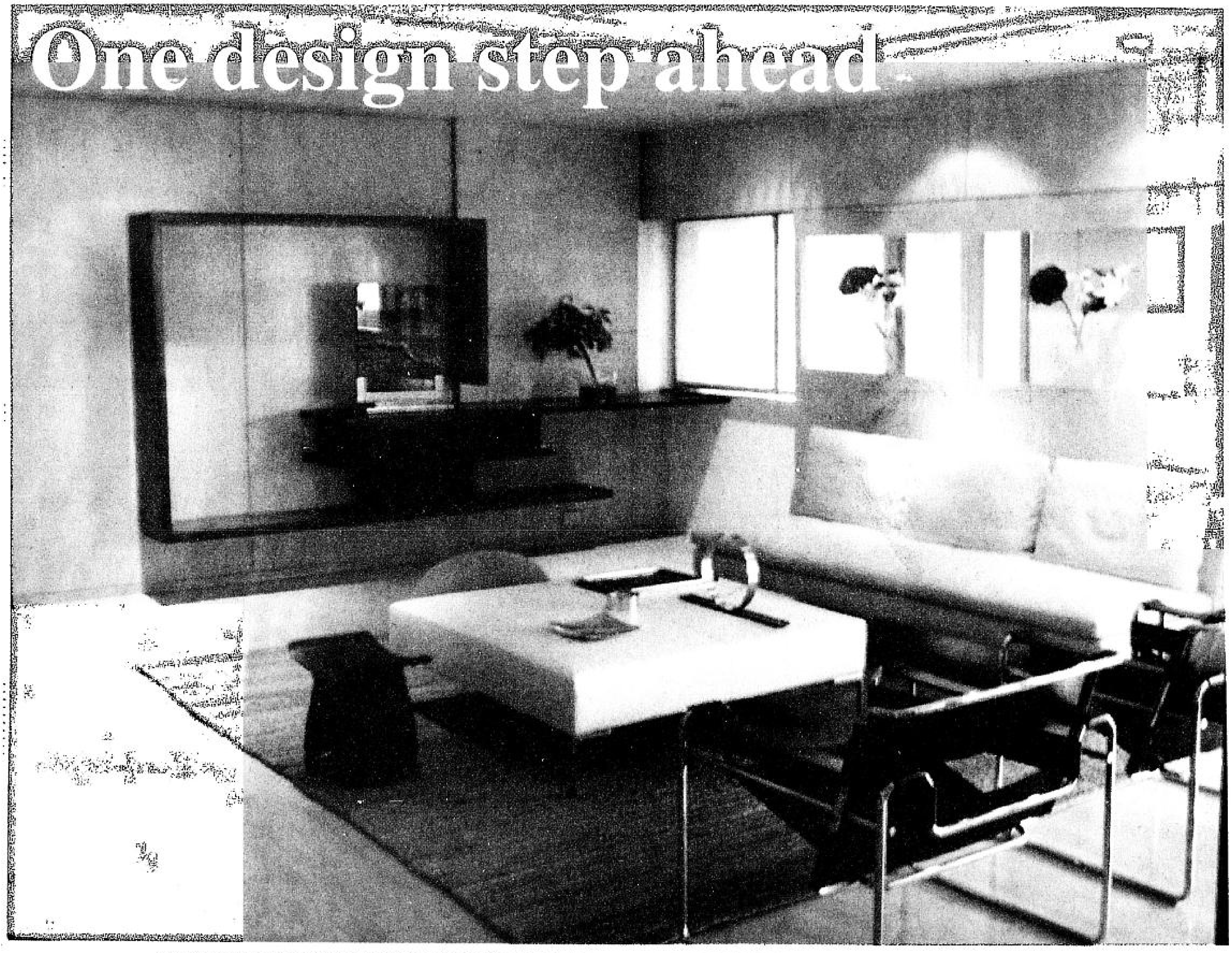
A PHILIPPE Starck clock dominates a column. A portion of the kitchen is revealed, showing the metal supports that connect the cabinet to the floor below.



GLASS and wood panels cut and define spaces. Accents, personal collections and artwork bring warmth to crisp spatial volumes.

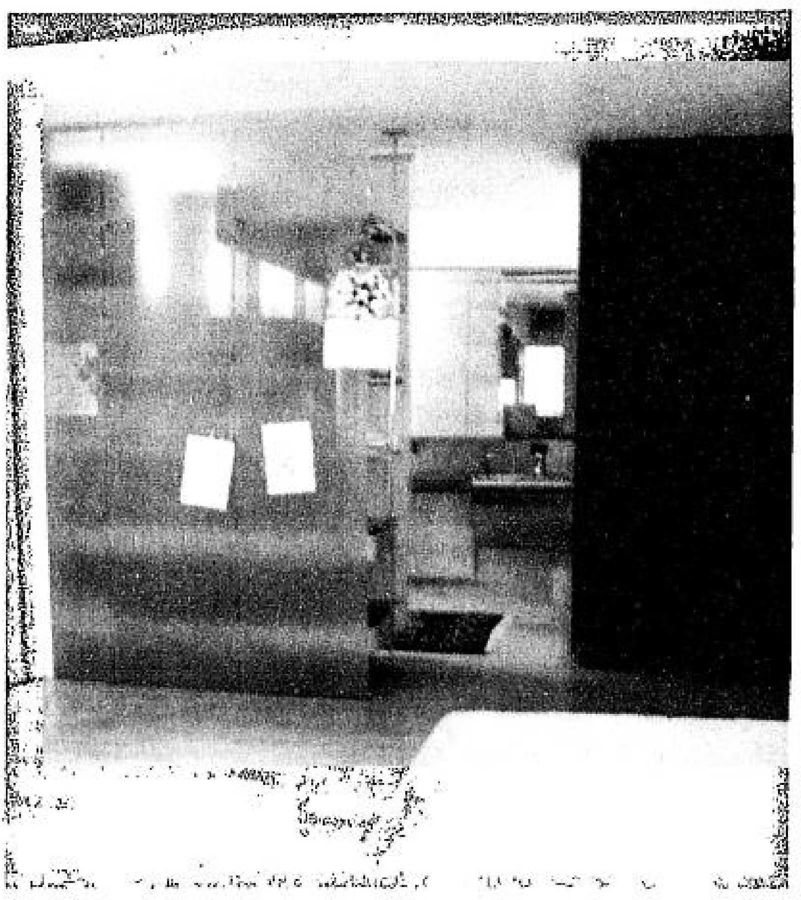
THE KITCHEN is a study in layers of materials, laid on top of another, as brushed stainless steel is combined with stone, as wood merges with glass.

One design step ahead



LAYERS of wood veneer panels on the ceiling provide a play of volumes. The entertainment center is a rendition of craftsmanship, done in planks of wood and secured onto the wall. Antonio Citterio's leather couch and table collection, from B&B Italia is in creamy white. A pair of 20-year-old Marcel Breuer chairs blends leather with stainless steel. Interesting, too, is a stool designed by Yanagi, a noted Japanese industrial designer. Portals of light and accents flank one wall side, as floral elements render a soft touch to clean, straight lines.

SPANISH designer Joseph Llusca designed the dining chairs, from Domani. Storage cabinets flank the entire wall section, from the dining to the kitchen.



SANDBLASTED glass panels, held together by stainless steel rods, divide the closet space from the bedroom. Cheerful drawings on crayon from the master's little daughter humanize the space. In the bath area are brushed stainless steel sink installations.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE FLU!

FLU STRIKES AGAIN!

During the rainy season, the common flu becomes more prevalent. Just recently, hundreds of influenza-stricken schoolchildren were sent home, triggering panic in some Metro Manila exclusive schools. Even top athletes of a collegiate basketball team were struck by the virus. Flu outbreak continues to cause alarm despite assurance from prominent agencies that the situation is under control.

HOW SERIOUS IS INFLUENZA?

Several periods of INFLUENZA activity have occurred around the world. The real danger of the illness lies in the complications, which can be fatal when not treated properly. A million deaths have been attributed to complications brought on by the Flu Virus, such as the Spanish Flu in 1928, the Asian Flu in 1957, the Hong Kong Flu in 1968, and more.

The Philippines was not spared this plight. Long before the current FLU VIRUS OUTBREAK hit several schoolchilren in Metro Manila, it had already stricken the city sometime around 1975 until 1978.

"AIR-BORNE" FLU VIRUS

Contrary to popular belief, the flu is not just a common cold. Influenza is a highly contagious viral infection involving the respiratory tract. This virus is transmitted through coughing and sneezing, especially in crowded places or enclosed, air-conditioned rooms. Hence, the reason why it is termed an "air-borne" virus. An unimmunized child or adult is at high-risk, especially the ones suffering from asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or some other chronic health condition. Equally vulnerable to infection are healthcare and public service providers.

ANTI-VIRAL FOR PREVENTIVE AND SYMPTOMATIC TREATMENT

Although vaccination is the primary method for the prevention of influenza, antiviral agents such as AMANTADINE HCl play a major role in the prevention and treatment of the illness. Clinical studies have evaluated the strength of AMANTADINE HCl in controlling and shortening the duration of the flu virus. Patients responded favorably to treatment, allowing both adult and pediatric patients to recover rapidly and quickly resume their routine activities.

IN CASE YOU FEEL THE FIRST SIGNS OF FLU - fever, chills, headache, body and joint pains, colds, cough - **CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR WITHIN 36 HOURS.** Why risk, when you can prevent?

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P50

Savings: P1.75

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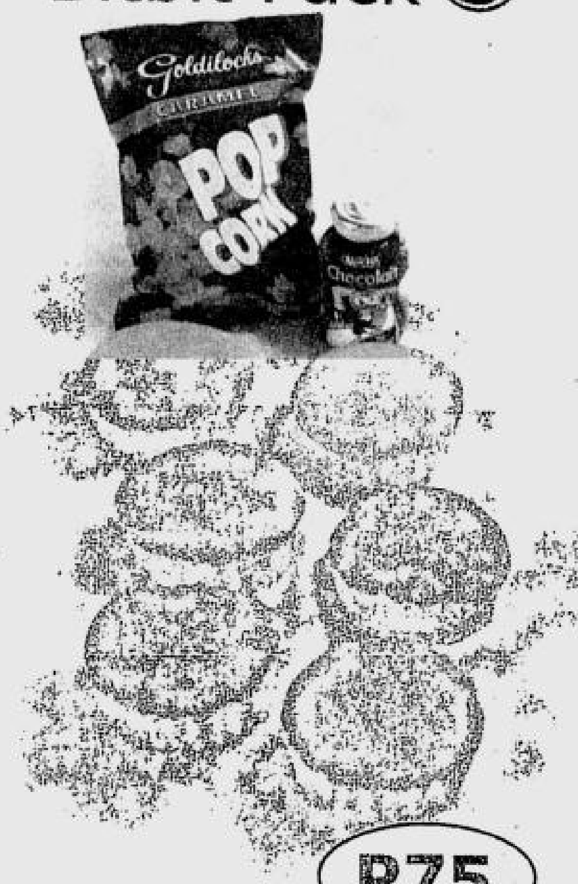
Nestlé
Chocolait
Goldilocks

- 1 pc. Choco Butter Cake Slice
- 1 pc. Special Mamon
- 1 pc. Brownies Small (2's)
- 1 pc. Special Polvoron
- 1 pc. Chocolait 120 ml

P50

Savings: P2.25

Bitbit Pack ③



- 6 pcs. Fluffy Mamon
- 1 pkg. Small Popcorn
- 1 pc. Chocolait 120 ml

P75

Savings: P5.50

Bitbit Pack ④

Nestlé
Chocolait

- 6 pcs. Small Ensaymada
- 1 pc. Chocolait 200 ml

P80

Savings: P5.50

Bitbit Pack ⑤

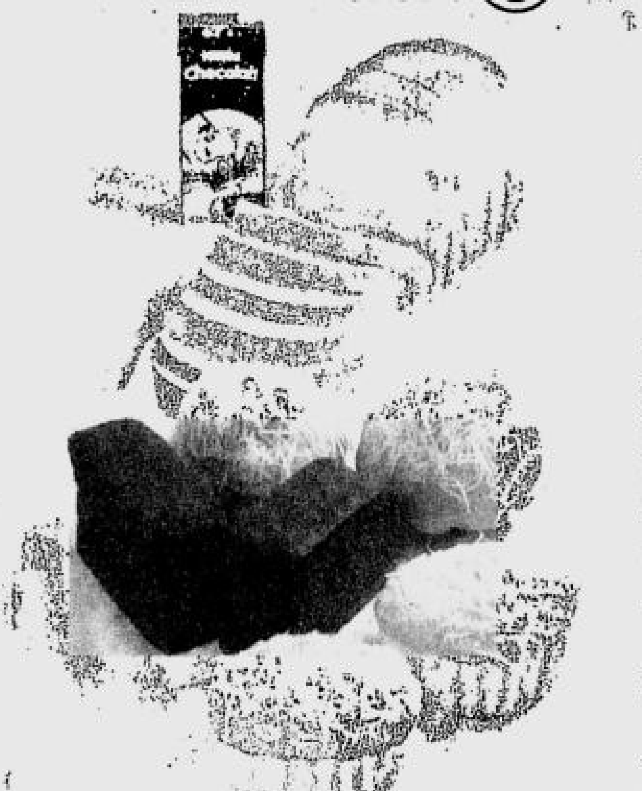
Goldilocks
POP CORN

- 1 pkg. Pan de Closa
- 2 pcs. Special Mamon
- 2 pcs. Small Ensaymada
- 1 pkg. Small Popcorn
- 1 pc. Special Polvoron
- 1 pc. Chocolait 200 ml

P100

Savings: P7.25

Bitbit Pack ⑥



- 1 pkg. Egg & Milk Mini Loaf
- 2 pcs. Small Ensaymada
- 2 pcs. Choco Butter Cake Slice
- 2 pcs. Special Mamon
- 1 pc. Chocolait 200 ml

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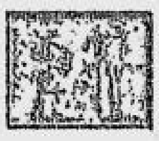
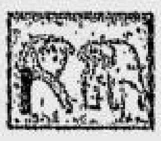

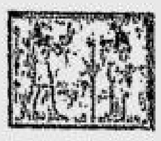

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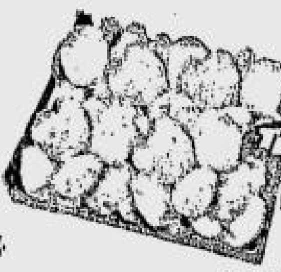
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Solo Papaya
- XL

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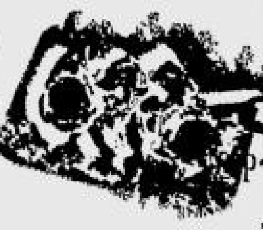
MONTEREY
Pork Chop BBQ
TLC PRICE
P135.00/kg.
Reg. Price 159.00/kg.

PUREFOODS
Tender Juicy Hotdog
- Regular

500 g
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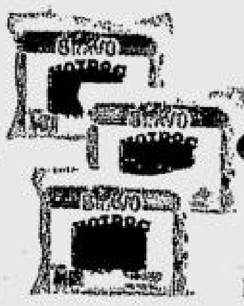
P85.00/pk.
Reg. Price 89.00


BRAVO
Hotdog
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250 g.
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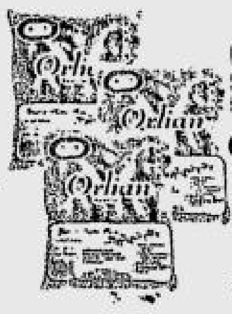
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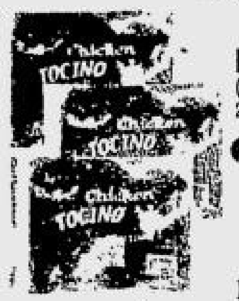
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Chicken Tocino
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Includes CARP Vinegar 385 mL.

CARP
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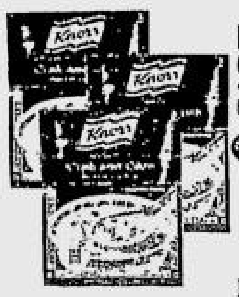
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Chinese Soup
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Tomato Sauce
Pouch
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- All Variants

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Tuna
- Flakes In Oil
- Hot & Spicy

180 g / 3's
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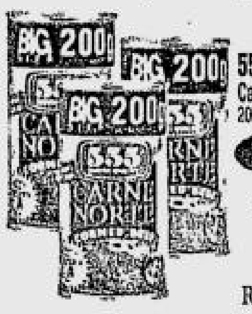
555
Carne Norte
200 g.
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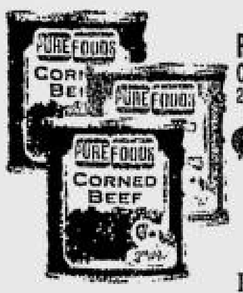
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Corned Beef
210 g.
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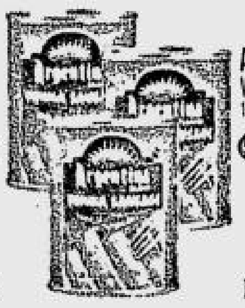
Reg. Price 41.50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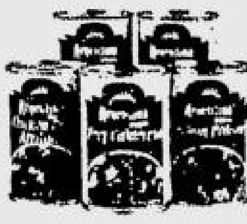
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Margarine
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- Chicken

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NESCAFE
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Refill
25 g.
TLC PRICE
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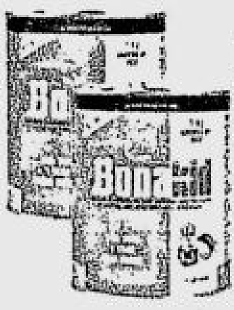
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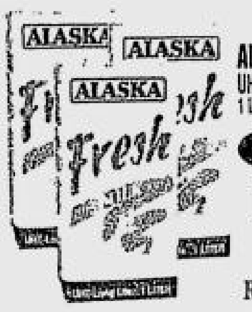
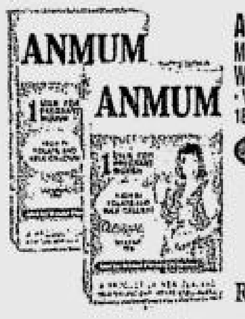

ALASKA
UHT Fresh Milk
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P34.50/ea.
Reg. Price 37.00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Milk For Pregnant Women
- Vanilla

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- Chocolate, 30 g.
- Strawberry, 30 g.
- Mr. Choco, 35 g.

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P8.25/ea.
Reg. Price 8.50

MAGIC FLAKES
Crackers
30 g / 10's
TLC PRICE
P18.00/pk.
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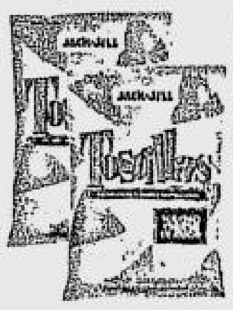
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Tostillas
- Nacho Cheese

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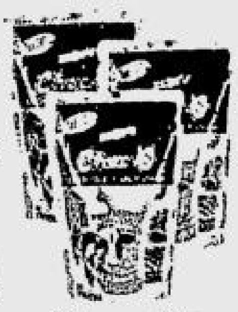
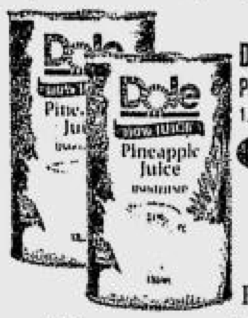
TANG
Powdered Juice Drink
- Grape
- Pineapple

Refill 500 g.
TLC PRICE
P35.50/ea.
Reg. Price 37.50


ZEST-O
Choc-O Milk Drink
200 mL.
TLC PRICE
P8.75/ea.
Reg. Price 9.50

MAGNOLIA
Funchum
- Orange
- Apple

200 mL.
TLC PRICE
P4.00/ea.
Reg. Price 4.25


DOLE
Pineapple Juice
1.36 Liters (46 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P31.75/ea.
Reg. Price 33.75

POKKA
Carrot Juice
240 mL.
TLC PRICE
P22.75/ea.
Reg. Price 24.50

COKE
In Can
330 mL.
TLC PRICE
P10.50/can
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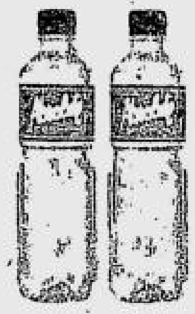
ABSOLUTE
Distilled Water
500 mL.
TLC PRICE
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Asti Spumanti
750 mL.
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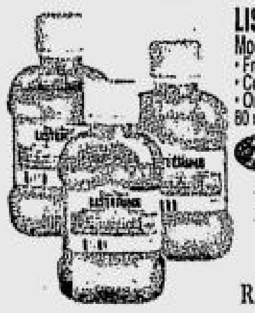
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Mouthwash
- Fresh Burst
- Cool Mint
- Original

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JOHNSON'S
Baby Lotion
- Silky Feel

100 mL.
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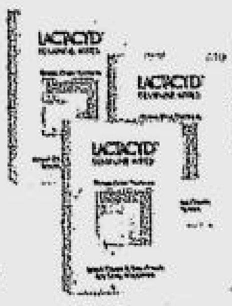
Reg. Price 39.75


LACTACYD
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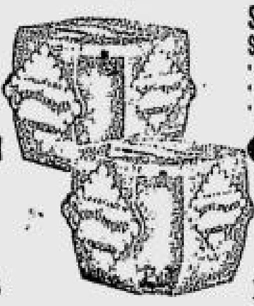
SCENTIMENTS
Scented Candles
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- Lavander
- Minty

TLC PRICE
P40.00/ea.
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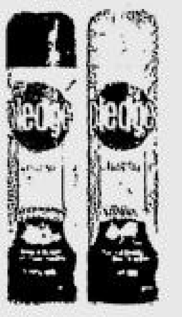
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Furniture Polish
- Lemon
- Rainshower

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Detergent Powder
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- Citrus

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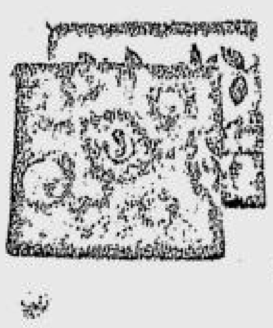
LCJ
Throw Pillow Case
- Assorted Designs

TLC PRICE
P42.00/ea.
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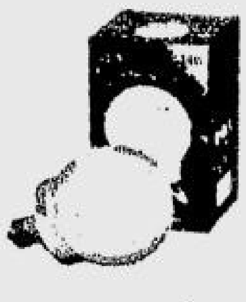
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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

Paris tones down shows to reflect public mood

In today's world, party clothes may be superfluous, but they're also an uplifting antidote to gloom and doom *(Story on page E2)*

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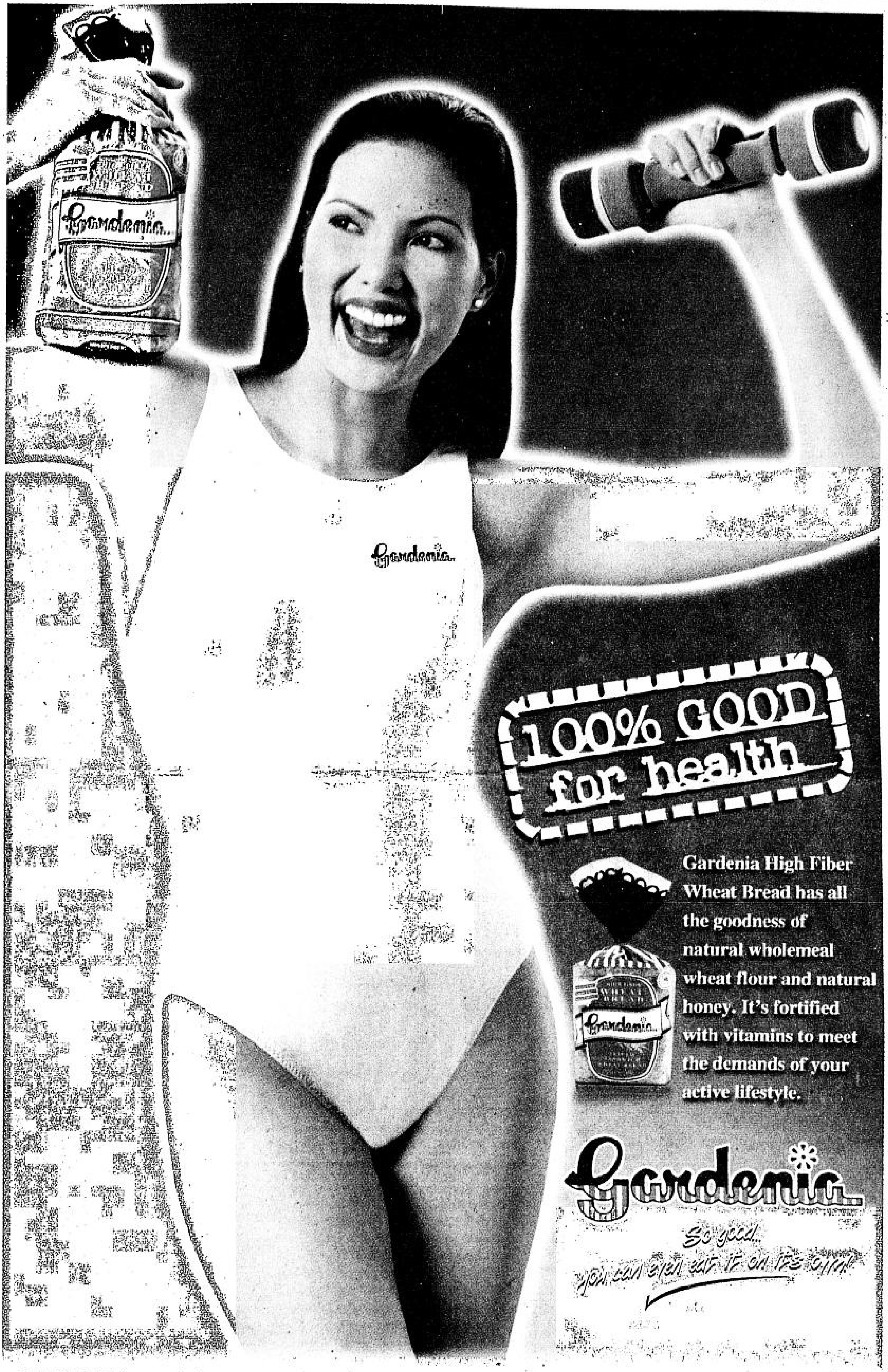

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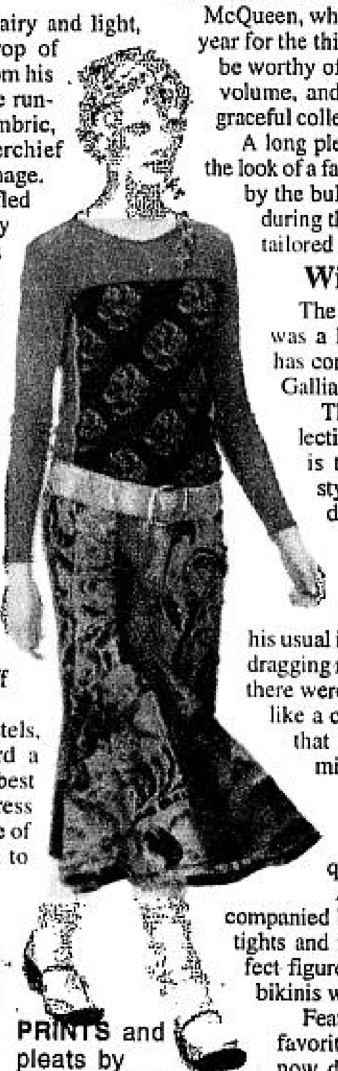
Paris tones down shows to reflect public mood

BY NEXT summer we will all need cheering up, and what better way to do it with than frivolous, ultra-feminine frocks, or so Christian Lacroix seems to have thought in designing his RTW collection shown on the catwalk. When he was mulling his designs, he doubtless had in mind the impending global recession that economists had been warning about rather than last month's atrocities in fashion's other capital, New York.

Fashion works so far ahead of itself that it would have been too late in the day to modify the clothes on the Paris runways this week, although presentations have been toned down to reflect the somber public mood.

Paradoxically, by some kind of osmosis, all the designers from Milan onward have been offering the kind of nonaggressive, gentle clothes that have an in-built feel-good factor, which might well feel right when wounds begin to heal.

Lacroix's vision of summer was airy and light, shown against a permeating backdrop of warm pink, one of his signal colors from his native Arles. Models wafted down the runway in layered skirts in fine silk cambric, falling asymmetrically into handkerchief points, often trailing threads like plumage.



PRINTS and pleats by Issey Miyake

Blouses had a gypsy feel, with ruffled or pleated necklines falling sensuously off one shoulder, while others were a cross between a tunic and a poncho or like comfortable 1960s sloppy Joe pullovers. Instead of pads, shoulders were gently ruffled, a bit like military frogging.

Tops were slung casually over ample culottes, cropped linen pants or slim leggings, which are finally undergoing a revival. Accessories were fringed bags and wide mottled leather belts with the fine iridescent finish of a dragonfly's wings.

Lacroix's historical researches are never far from the surface. His Art Nouveau or Jugendstil revisited blouses with waffled sleeves, piping and frilly jabots could have stepped off a Gustav Klimt painting.

From frothy cream and dusty pastels, he moved into abstract prints toward a finale of bright colors. Among the best pieces was a flounced scarlet lace dress with drooping hemline, and huge wedge of material twisted and tied at the back to form a kind of bustle-cum-train.

Informal at Kenzo

For Kenzo, Gilles Rosier's approach was more informal—a mix and match of sportswear and kimono tailoring for his imagined mythical summer destination somewhere between Hanoi and Tahiti.

As backdrop to the runway he chose the shadows of palm trees echoed on his prints in cream on black or chocolate and using fine, sheer fabrics, suitable for the tropics.

Safari jackets and slouchy shirts in buttery suede were softly tailored with loads of pockets and details like little button-down flaps to pull the fabric into attractive creases.

Everything was loose and baggy to deal with the heat and in desert colors, like sand and ivory.

Accessories included canvas hats with veils to keep out the dust and obi-like pouchy bags, incorporated into the backs of jackets.

McQueen's first show for Gucci

Alexander McQueen sees women lying in the Spanish sun next summer, far from the fog and rain that hung over Paris when the British designer presented his 2002 spring-summer RTW collection.

For his first Parisian show under his own name since his alliance with Gucci, the "bad boy" of fashion presented a calm collection, despite the title of "El Baile del Toro Retorsido (The Ball of the Twisted Bull)."

Some 60 models presented a dominantly red and black collection to be worn by the most elegant of flamenco dancers and most fashionable of bull fighters.

McQueen, who was named British designer of the year for the third time this year, proved himself to be worthy of the title, contrasting materials and volume, and bringing his unique touch to this graceful collection.

A long pleated skirt turned just right takes on the look of a fan. Evening wear is greatly influenced by the bull fighter's garb—hat included—but during the day, McQueen sees his women in tailored skirts or gray straight-legged pants.

Wild street chic from Dior

The Christian Dior summer RTW show was a loud, blowzy affair—just what one has come to expect from iconoclastic John Galliano.

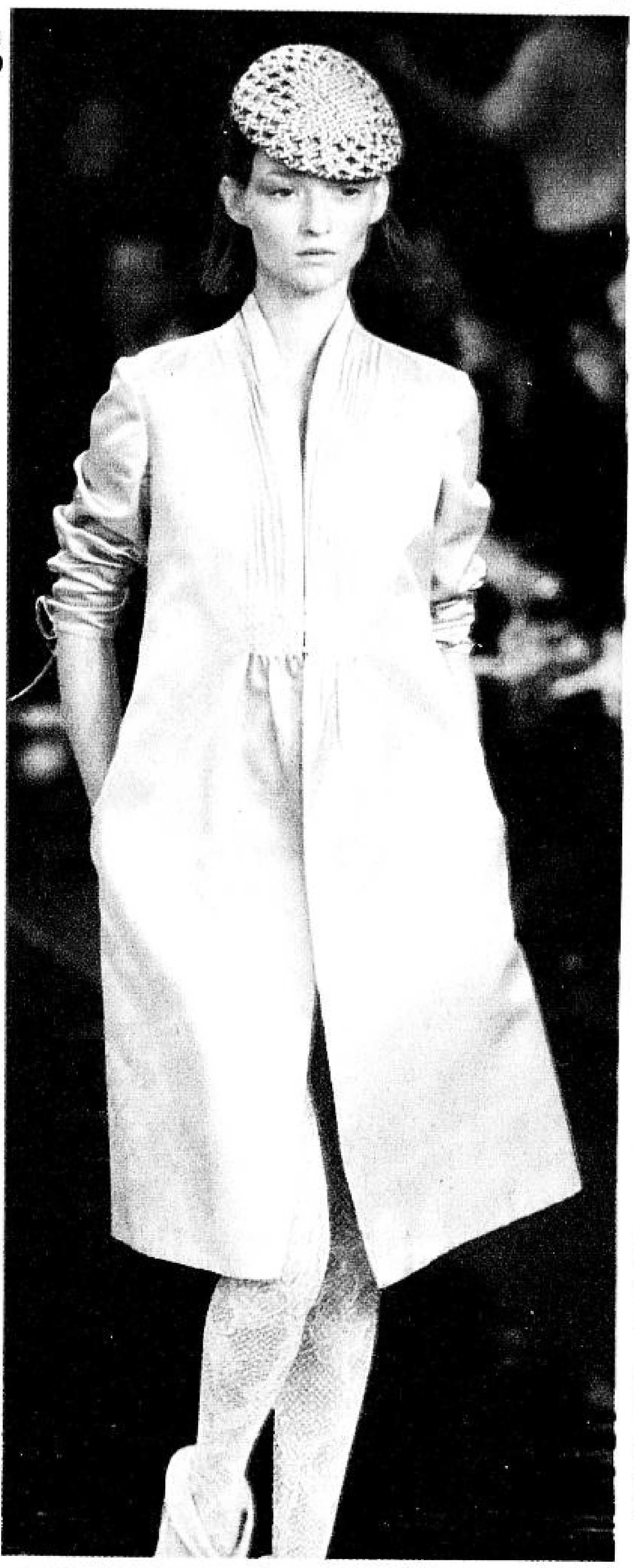
The British designer dubbed the collection "street chic." If one's idea of chic is the deconstructed look of lingerie-style stretch tulle in odd cutouts and dusty rose bustiers, fine. That was the start of the show, held in a tent at a steeplechase racetrack.

Grinning behind a wisp of long blond hair, Galliano took a bow after his usual in-your-face show, which was full of dragging ribbons and bunched-up draping. But there were some remarkable wearable pieces, like a caramel-beige striped serpent blazer that would look great with jeans or a miniskirt.

Galliano knows how to mix up denim in baggy or tight jeans, plus jackets with underpinnings of exquisite lace.

A tune called "Viva Las Vegas" accompanied bikini swimsuits, latticed or fishnet tights and feathered hats. For those with perfect figures, Galliano's colorful striped Dior bikinis were just the ticket.

Feathered hats and fringes are a Galliano favorite, and the once ultra dressy house now dresses the cowgirl. The Old West theme produced excellent long trench coats.



CREAM coat with lace inset by Stella McCartney

STREET chic by John Galliano for Dior

Huge bags with wide shoulder straps were beautifully made, practical and probably bestsellers to come.

There were a few military references—military-style hip belts and desert hats with veils. Galliano also brought up draped tunics in green voiles, harem pants and turbans.

True chic from Valentino

Valentino's brought out a delicious show of party luxury RTW outfits for next spring. The show was filled with the thrill of frills as Valentino looked to Mexico and Brazil for inspiration.

The fabulous pleated flared trousers, the fine ivory heavy-lace or guipure tops with their tiered and flounced pants, the surprising glance of a model wearing the tiniest bikini bottom with a dainty puffed-sleeve pullover—all combined for a rich and dressy yet carefree effect.

Beautiful eyelet blouses and some great silver and turquoise jewelry had Valentino's usual panache and would go well in any Brazilian samba band or at a carnival party. Party clothes exploded with ruffles in flared trousers, chiffon numbers in Valentino's favorite flame red, or colorful ostrich-feather evening bags. The elaborate corselet fronts with millions of pleats were a little overexuberant in a provocative boudoir style.

Stella McCartney basks in her label's debut

Stella McCartney clearly had fun making her first collection under her own label, backed by Gucci. The show of spring RTW at a warehouse near Paris' Pompidou Center was swinging with cockney-rhyming embroideries, monkey motifs, swooping décolletes and pelvis-high hot pants or miniskirts.

Stella's dad, former Beatle Paul, was in the audience with his fiancée, Heather, and both looked amused by the show.

As news from Afghanistan beamed to the world, designers like McCartney held to optimistic messages that were dreamed up weeks or months ago.

Stella took recent events into consideration, dedicating the show not only to her family but to "those touched by the tragedy of Sept. 11."

Among contrasts in the show were her Savile-Row style tailoring in some jackets over lace outfits, which clashed with lingerie-style two-piece boudoir ensembles or clingy orange T-shirt dresses.

McCartney's runway featured items like a royal blue satin jacket over lace pants or a tiny T-shirt adorned with the words "slippery when wet."

There were plenty of sequined minis for disco wear, artsy prints of monkeys or faces created with McCartney's artist friend Gary Hume—and at times it was over the top.

But there were great moments, such as a fabulous cream coat with insets of lace in monkey patterns, plus duchess satin lapels.

Rochas goes young

At Rochas, Anglo-Irish designer Peter O'Brien showed a coordinated collection featuring many shorts and micro-minis. There were so many little-girl looks with puffed sleeves and teeny skirts that it looked like a revival of Shirley Temple in the 1930s.

"I thought it would be refreshing to show those, clear the cobwebs away," O'Brien said after the show.

And indeed they looked fresh, with big Peter Pan collars, pleated skirts or shorts with vests. The lowered waists with hip belts looked fine with minis or occasional maxis for evening.

More wearable for most people were beige-charcoal striped seersucker trouser suits with neat inset belts, or body-hugging white or midnight blue satin trouser suits, a style the younger set is wearing these days.

Purity in Paco Rabanne

Paco Rabanne's show was based on virginal white and romance, from the slim white silk pants with a billowing, sheer nylon blouse right down to the strapless outfit with midriff covered in clear plastic, and a swingy skirt edged in ostrich feathers.

White minidresses and pantsuits piped with fluorescent orange harked right back to the '60s fashion revolution.

Layers of fluid, transparent fabrics, and frills, like icing on a cake, made the collection delectable. At times, the old Paco style came out in jackets or coats of metallic or plastic discs. *AFP, AP*

EMBROIDERED white and orange top and white satin skirt with an orange belt by Valentino

THE GIRDLED look by Irish designer Peter O'Brien for Rochas

PHOTOS BY AP

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- Cooking Demonstration & Fine Dining Seminar by Center for Culinary Arts
- Series of Live Band Performances Barbie's Cradle, Elements, Itchyworms, Proverbial Eye
- Casino Nights
- Rave Party
October 20, 2001 (Saturday) (3:00 PM - 4:00 AM)
- Fashion Show
- Bartending / Flairtending Competition
- Amateur DJ Mixing Competition
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Mad bikers and a new men's fragrance

IT was an afternoon of bikes, beauties and lots of cool as Cosmetique de France (CDF) launched its newest scent, The Legendary Harley Davidson, at the SM Megamall. A joint project with SM Health and Beauty, the launch was held at 2/L Bridgeway, SM Megamall.

Highlighting the event was an exhibit of Harley Davidson motorcycles that inspired this new fragrance line. Members of the Mad Dog Motorcycle Club, complete with hip biker gear and attitude, roared into the mall in their prize bikes, then gamely splashed and spritzed on the scent during the launch. Guest celebrities Alynna Perez and Francis Ricafort also graced the activities.

The launch's theme was an invitation to experience the passion of freedom, adventure and individuality in Harley Davidson's two scents, which are now available at all SM Health and Beauty Stores.

These are Original, a rich distinctively masculine scent, and Free Space, a fresh and light fragrance that's full of character.

The Legendary Harley Davidson fragrance from Cosmetique de France is available at all SM Health and Beauty outlets at all SM Department Stores and SM Malls. The first 300 buyers will get a Harley Davidson watch.

ALYNNA Perez with Joe Fitter of the Mad Dog Motorcycle Club at the Harley Davidson motorcycle exhibit

New award launched

THE NEW Consuelo Awards to be given in November will recognize outstanding nongovernment organizations (NGOs) that have made a significant difference in the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children, women and families.

The awards program is named after Consuelo Zobel Alger, founder of the nonprofit US-based Consuelo Foundation. It will honor an NGO that has clearly demonstrated excellence in fulfilling its wish to "renew hope for those who have lost it or to give hope to those who never had it."

Besides successfully carrying out the foundation's mission, NGOs will also be evaluated on conformity with organizational standards and, most importantly, program effectiveness.

The evaluation panel will consider how well the NGO has restored the dignity and self-respect of disadvantaged groups it is championing and to what degree it has succeeded in making those women, children or families more self-reliant and self-sufficient.

The winner will be selected by the four-member panel of Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president and CEO of Ayala Corp. and grand-nephew of Zobel Alger; Bienvenido A. Tan Jr., former ambassador to Germany and former Bureau of Internal Revenue director; Justo A. Ortiz, chair and CEO of Union Bank; and Mary Racelis, director, Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University and former country representative, Ford Foundation.

The Consuelo awardee, which will be announced this month, will receive a plaque of recognition and a cash honorarium to be used to enhance and strengthen its work. A special awards ceremony will be held on Nov. 29, the anniversary of Zobel Alger's death.

The Consuelo Foundation operates or supports programs in the Philippines and Hawaii to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged children, women and families. Through its subsidiary, the Children and Youth Foundation of the Phils., it supports more than 60 programs throughout the Philippines. Its branch office is in Makati City. Call 848-0601.

Shopping galore marks Oktoberfest

SHOP@THEFORT promises to roll out barrels of bargains and goodies at the NBC Tent on Oct. 13 and 14, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. This month's shopping extravaganza celebrates Oktoberfest with great bargain finds like home décor, fashion accessories, garments, linens, toys for children books and gift items.

GOINGS-ON

LECTURE. The Series of Weekend Photography Lectures now being held at Mandy Navasero Studio, 1935 Dominga St. corner of Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City gathers participants as far as General Santos and Cebu. Courses being offered include Portraiture (Nov. 10 and 11), Glamour and Fashion (Oct 13 and 14, Nov. 17 and 18), Product and Food Photography (Oct. 20 and 21, Nov. 24 and 25) to hone creative minds with photographic technicalities and skills. Call 522-1901 or 522-1905.

CHARITY DINNER. The Women of Union Church of Manila will hold its annual charity dinner auction on Oct. 18, 5:30-9 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club, Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Bidders will have a chance to get original artworks by Abueva, Blanco, Orlina and other artists. Collectible items this year include books autographed by former President Fidel Ramos plus other presidential memorabilia. Hundreds of other items are up for grabs. Call 811-8225 to 28.

BAZAAR. Noel Christmas Bazaar is set on Oct. 13-14 at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Call CUT Unlimited at 371-7405/7398 or 373-3601 local 216, or e-mail eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph.

REUNION. Class 1958 of Rizal High School will hold its 43rd reunion on Dec. 16 at Marigold in Buting, Pasig City. Call Juliet Landrito-Lorenzo at 631-1150, Praxedes San Miguel-De la Rosa at 655-3958 or Consuelo Canlas-Callang at 873-1317.

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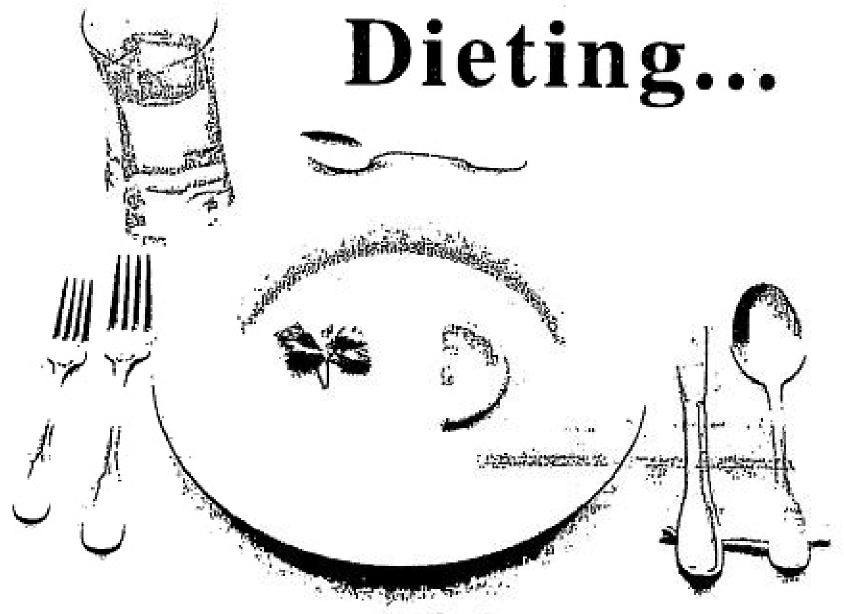

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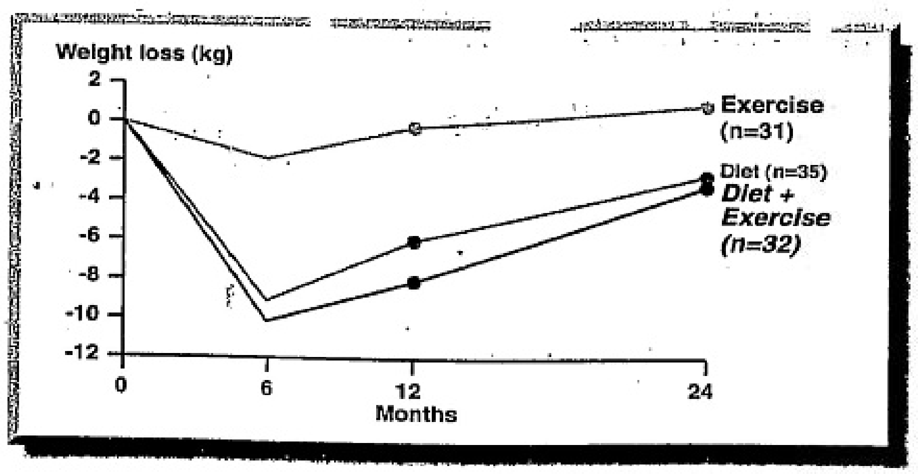

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A force for good

Sa Pasko'y NU SKIN Taya!

HOLIDAY GOODNESS. Nu Skin brings orphans holiday cheer.

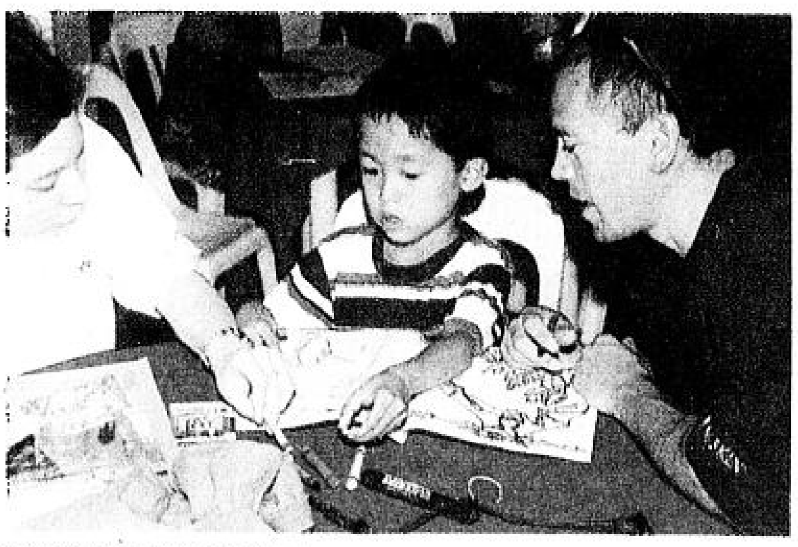
By Cathy Babao Guballa

THEIR corporate tag line goes, "All of the good, none of the bad." Known the world over for their excellent range of skin products, Nu Skin has a little known side that goes beyond selling products that promote beauty and wellness. Established in 1996, their Force for Good Foundation has been helping countless children worldwide have a better chance at life. Their services range from providing grants for studies on particularly debilitating skin diseases, to providing funds for cleft palate operations and helping Filipino children in various orphanages.

Established in 1984, Nu Skin started creating the most natural and beneficial personal care products. A little over 10 years later, in 1996, the company had 500,000 active independent distributors and employees.

In the same year the Force for Good Foundation was born. Through the foundation, the company aspires to be precisely that—a force for good throughout the world. This objective is achieved through the sale of Epoch products (a product line that unites natural ingredients, used for centuries by indigenous cultures, with advanced scientific ingredients), proceeds of which are used to assist in the preservation of life, continuation of indigenous cultures and protection of fragile environments. "We view this campaign as a long-term commitment to improve the world around us," Steven Lund, president and chief executive officer of Nu Skin Enterprises, says in describing the aim of Force for Good.

Through its foundation, Nu Skin has bankrolled research on debilitating skin diseases, financed the facial surgery of poor children, and taken part in the environmental crusade



A FORCE FOR GOOD. Nu Skin officials from the US and child beneficiaries of Mabuhay Deseret Foundation

NU Skin officers interact with an orphan.

Research

In the United States, one of the most outstanding contributions of the Force for Good Foundation has been in the area of research toward finding a cure for a disabling disease called epidermolysis bulosa (EB). EB is an often fatal disease that affects an estimated 100,000 Americans, mostly children. EB occurs when skin cells don't generate the protein necessary to "glue" skin together. The resulting symptoms are blisters and open sores that don't heal and can cover as much as 75 percent of the body. To help find a cure, Nu Skin is a contributor to the EB Medical Research Foundation (EBMRF). With each sale of Epoch Glacial Marine Mud, $.25 goes to EBMRF.

Very recently, funds were donated to establish the Nu Skin Center for Dermatological Research at the Stanford University Medical School in Palo Alto, California, where the Department of Dermatology is heading the fight against EB.

In Ghana, West Africa, a disease called buruli ulcer, similar to leprosy, twists, maims and destroys the limbs of its victims. The Humanitarian Aid Relief Team (Hart) has been working to eradicate buruli ulcer through onsite medical treatment and education. In an effort to bring relief, the Force for Good Foundation has donated $21,000 to Hart. Through these funds, volunteer doctors hope to eradicate the disease altogether.

Indigent children

In the Philippines, the foundation's local beneficiary is the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation (MDF), a civic organization in the country that gathers indigent children from around the country to give them free reconstructive surgery. The foundation performs more than 200 operations each month to correct deformities such as cleft palates, hare lips, burns, club feet, crossed eyes and cataracts, and heart problems. The foundation is composed of hundreds of volunteer surgeons, physicians, optometrists, nurses and medical and administrative staff who share their time and resources to give handicapped children a better chance at life.

With the help of Nu Skin, support for MDF has been continuous. Nu Skin has provided funding for the completion of MDF's halfway house in Quezon City and most recently in Davao. These shelters serve as temporary homes where medical requirements are provided and patient's progress is monitored until recovery. Every year, Nu Skin Philippines holds a Christmas party for the children of MDF aptly called "Bata... bata... Sa Pasko'y Nu Skin ang Taya." On a smaller but equally important scale, Nu Skin distributors, on their own, organized the Force "Fore" Good Golf Classic, a golf tournament held for the benefit of MDF. The tournament was able to raise funds enough to cover the cost of surgery for 20 children with cases varying from cleft palate and clubfeet to eye problems such as cataract and crossed eyes.

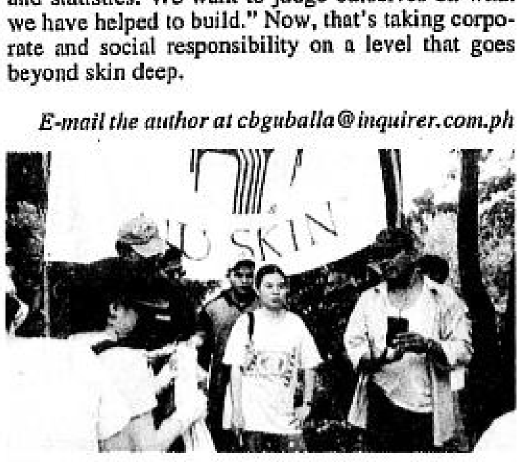
Environment

To help preserve the environment, Nu Skin has also been supporting ABS-CBN's Adopt a Tree program. Under the project, Nu Skin adopted a hectare of land where 625 seedlings have been planted under its name. The Adopt a Tree program aims to revive and protect the La Mesa Dam watershed, whose land is estimated to be 40 percent denuded.

The Force for Good's most recent beneficiary in the Philippines is the Create Responsive Infants By Sharing (Cribs) Philippines Inc., a nonstock and nonprofit organization that promotes child welfare by providing a loving home and environment for neglected, abandoned and surrendered infants from day-old to 2½ years of age. Nu Skin Enterprises, through the foundation, recently donated $9,000 to Cribs.

Funding for all these projects comes from a percentage of sales from the Epoch skin care line, whose products are the result of studies by world-renowned ethnobotanists and Nu Skin research and development. The Epoch products draw on the knowledge of indigenous cultures and the company wanted to give something back to preserve and support these cultures. Thus, with the sale of each Epoch product, $.25 is donated to the Force for Good Campaign to be used in supporting projects around the world. As Sandie Tillotson, senior vice president and cofounder of Nu Skin Enterprises, puts it, "We want to measure our success by more than impressive sales figures and statistics. We want to judge ourselves on what we have helped to build." Now, that's taking corporate and social responsibility on a level that goes beyond skin deep.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



SUPPORTING MOTHER NATURE. Nu Skin joins Bantay Bata's tree planting.

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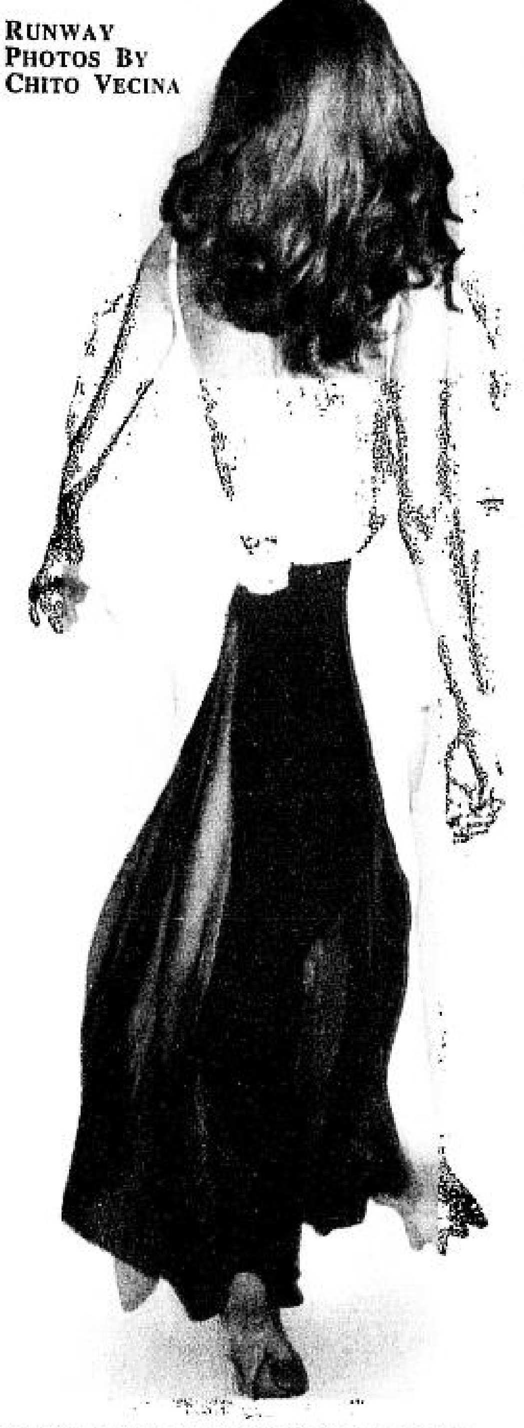
Why 2001 became the year of Inno Sotto

(Story on page F3)

RUNWAY PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA



THIS chiffon gown got the most orders after the fashion show. The front panel reaches the back seams. The center panel is all chiffon. The black panels are inserts.

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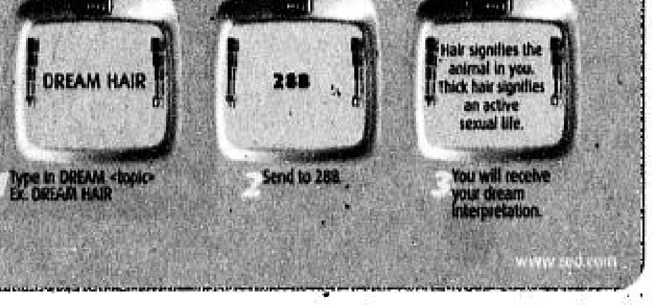

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PATRICIA Cu-Unjieng in a Pepito Albert gown. Hubby Philip wears Hugo Boss.

CARLA Tengco in a crepe de chine gown by Sotto with husband Al

SUZY Calma wears Alberta Ferretti while husband Ed wears Comme des Garcon.

GINA and Pedro Roxas

DODOT and Mikee Jaworski

MAURICE Arcache is appropriately dressed in an Inno Sotto suit, and Vicky Zubiri in Christian Lacroix.

Their own best supermodels

At the Inno Sotto gala, even before the curtain rises and the first model walks in, the fashion show is already at full throttle

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

AN INNO Sotto fashion show really starts when guests start arriving. Expect anything from the designer gowns—foreign and Filipino—to individualistic looks. In his last show at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, expect Sotto's clients, mostly from the uppercrust, appearing very proper. Elegance was mirrored by **Mons Tantoco** who looked stunning in a red crepe, strapless gown with ruching and drapes by **Joe Salazar. Chary Aboitiz**, one of the country's most stylish women (her being low key adds to her allure), flew in from Cebu to watch the show. She wore a beaded black-and-white outfit. Doña **Bea Zobel de Ayala** wore a flowing black gown accented with a dragonfly pin.

Gina Yupangco was the first to wear fashion from Issey Miyake's new line Apoc. The store is found in Paris.

Surprisingly the men, despite their conservative tastes, invested in name brand suits. The labels ranged from trustworthy to trendy. **Larrie Silva** was nationalistic in a *jusi* barong. While media people **Anton San Diego** and **Toots Tolentino** favored fashion-forward labels such as Emporio Armani and Gucci. Individualism was reflected in the pink pants and blazer and cravat sported by Metro's managing editor **Carlo Tadiar.**

Predictably, black was the color of the evening. Why? For many reasons—it makes one slimmer, it can be worn again, it doesn't require much thought and to local shoppers, there's not much choice.

Inno Sotto wore a suit from Costume National. "I had no time to do anything for myself," he said. At least, the white shirt was made by him. *Marge C. Enriquez*

NOTHING BUT INNO SOTTO. Luli Arroyo is clad in satin, former first lady Ming Ramos in chiffon and Berna Puyat in crepe.

STUDY IN CONTRAST. Mary Prieto goes classic black while Chito Madrigal Collantes opts for prints and fuchsia.

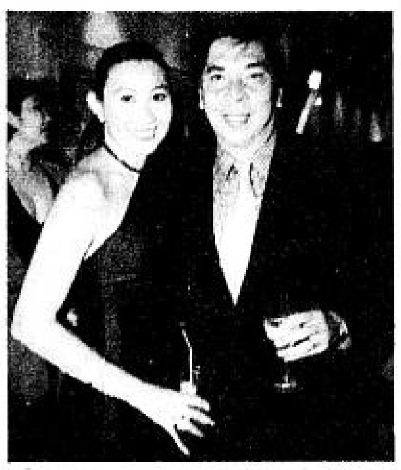
AMPARITO Lhuillier wears a chiffon and crepe de chine gown with constellation beadwork by Sotto. Maricris Vasquez-Prada is in a gown by Pepito Albert.

CARMINA Sanchez and Virgie Ramos in a Matsuda gown

GOLDILOCKS. Tessa Valdes in a silk gown with sleeves of frayed silk threads by Sotto

SINCE Margarita Fores likes vintage clothing, Inno Sotto makes a gown from her mother's heirloom fabric. Veana wears Bill Blass and Bledes Fores wears a French label, Ymayaba.

JACQUES du Pasquier and Mia Borromeo



CECILE Ysmael wears Len Guiao while hubby Louie Y. wears Ermengildo Zegna.

LULU Tan-Gan always is in a Vivienne Westwood. The necklace and bracelet are made by Gemma Suzara for Firma.

ANTHONY Yupangco wears Issey Miyake; Gina Yupangco wears Apoc by Miyake and husband Joey favors Costume National.

JOSINE Elizalde wears Pepito Albert's look.

DOODY Tuason stands out in a sea of black in a canary slip dress by Dolce & Gabbana and jewelry which she designed herself.

FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala with wife Kit and sister-in-law Lizzie Zobel, wearing Inno Sotto, and Beatriz Urquijo

SOTTO'S partner and producer, Richard Tann, naturally wears a suit by the designer. He is with Inno's muse Samantha Eduque in a silk gown with bias skirt. With them are Tessie and Arturo Luz.

SOFIA Zobel Elizalde in Donna Karan with sisters Cristina Suarez de Puga in a top also by Karan and Monica Pla in a blouse from Forms, a shop in London for mothers-to-be

Why 2001 became the year of Inno Sotto

EACH time I drive down C-5, I realize we don't need a bioterrorist attack to strike the city population ill. Our uncollected trash would be enough. C-5 remains lined with mountains of fly-infested trash, like the rest of Metro Manila—months after the Arroyo government and the MMDA's **Ben Abalos** promised to solve the garbage crisis. It's so obvious they're still helpless in disposing of the metropolis' garbage.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Given the runaway pollution, the filth, the *esteros* taken over by shanties, the growing congestion and increasing population, it shouldn't have come as a surprise that schoolchildren fell ill by the hundreds in a span of weeks. We didn't need the threat of a biochemical warfare to get an anxiety attack. The mere sight of our ill-run cities should do it.

Meanwhile, as the war abroad began, lifestyle, as we know it or as how we want it to be, went on here at home. Specifically, **Inno Sotto** held his annual invitational fashion show and a select power crowd led by **President Macapagal-Arroyo** and the former first lady **Ming Ramos** gave up its Sunday evening to see it at Shangri-La Edsa last weekend. It was worth giving up a Sunday evening for.

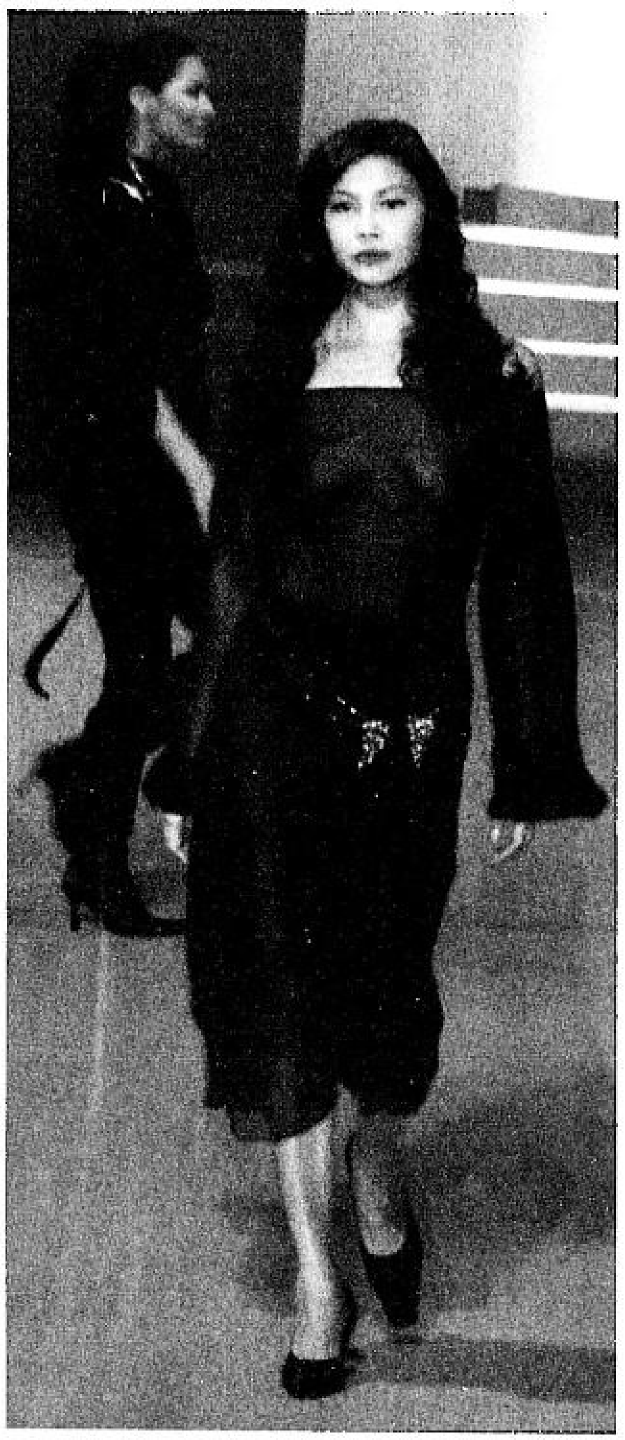
More relaxed

It was a modest production, by high-caliber designer show standards, but to our mind it was the best Inno Sotto we've seen, and we've seen all his galas since his dramatic comeback more than a decade ago. That single show made 2001 an Inno Sotto year, as far as collections presented on the runway are concerned.

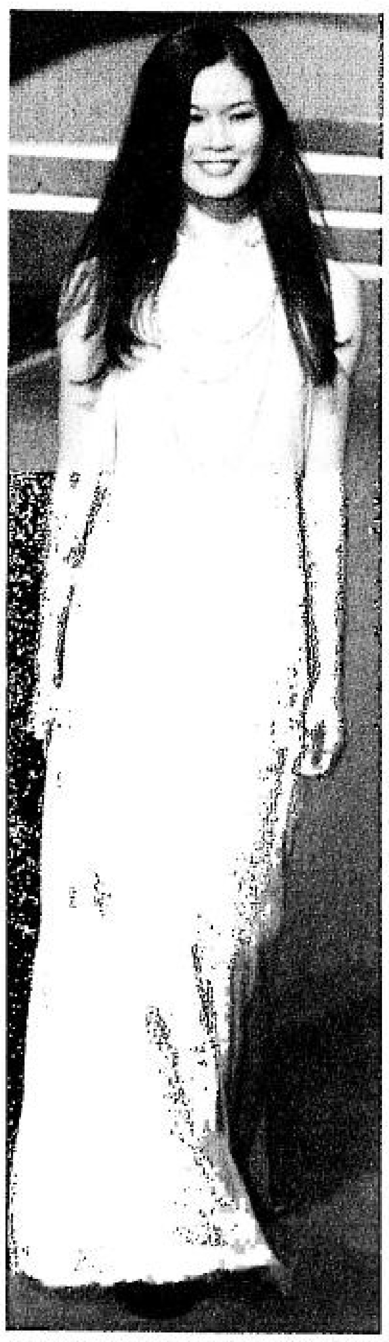
Why? It wasn't only the collection, but more so, the stance his collection took, or what I perceived to be his stance. He showed proof that he is at his peak, not by resorting to a design overload, but by displaying utmost confidence in his identity as a designer. I felt that he designed for himself—not for a Manila audience that has always loved theatrical fashions, not for his peers who'd be looking for design acrobatics, not for a clientele being wooed to buy his stuff—but for himself: Design, as he felt it should be expressed at this phase of his creativity. Take it or leave it.

And to us, that self-confidence, that honesty to his craft, to his level of design evolution, is best proof that a designer is now truly secure. To be allowed to be honest to one's design vision and do as one felt—free from fear of market or press bitchiness—is a luxury enjoyed by only the most accomplished of designers. A designer must have already paid his dues to enjoy such a luxury.

After trying all tricks in the book, he can now buck trends, make his choice, edit out the nonessentials (no knock-offs here), and practice restraint. That was the Inno Sotto we saw last Sunday. No wonder it was a relaxed Inno we noted before and after the show. In truth, it was the most relaxed we've seen him during his collection. (Either he was truly pleased with himself or just in love.)



SOTTO does a redux of his see-through numbers. Annette Coronel-Cruz wears this chiffon, off-the-shoulder dress with a bias skirt. The belt is underneath the layers.



JOAN Bitagcol floats in this bias cut silk chiffon gown, framed with a necklace from Karatura.

Nothing flashy

"Inno Sotto on Red Carpet," as his show was called, harked back to the glamour of Hollywood stars of old, but with cutting-edge touches of the here and now. From day to eveningwear, the clothes were ultra-feminine and had that quiet allure to them. No fireworks. No visual traffic. No screaming for attention. In short, they were as women should dress when they're not insecurely competing with each other or their men's mistresses. True style has that sense of security, that nonchalance.

To start with, he avoided beadwork or blinding flashes of ornamentation or clashes of color. The brilliance came only from his trademark brooches that held a draping or accented a body part.

In place of loud ornamentation, he chose subtle detailing to make his design statement. The beauty of the clothes was in their intricate construction and smart detailing. For instance, in his black gown, he frayed the fabric, crosswise, from the legs up to the hips, to give an illusion of a widening slit. This gown thus turned out to be seductive in its simplicity.

To romantic songs, in strode his daywear—simple shifts and softly tailored jackets in silk linens, in muted shades or occasional yellow and red. Imagine an Audrey Hepburn updated through accents of fabric strings used as belts or neckpieces, their ends not tied into a knot, or strings formed into a butterfly on the collarbone. The butterfly was a favorite image. The hemlines skimmed the knees, the feet shod in medium-heeled mules. (For once we saw a collection where models walked comfortably, not teetering on spiky heels or high-rise wedgies.)

Intricate construction

Then came what he called the Cromwell collection (of that Britannic era)—evening wear in black taffeta or chiffon, strategically pleated, paired with knee-high boots. The appeal was Greta Garbo-ish. All throughout his accents or ornamentations were made of fabrics—silk chiffon or organdy given the "lettuce finish" (imagine the soft peel), or given the breezy effect of delicate corrals swaying underwater. These fabrics were worn like scarves or mufflers. His gowns, also in black chiffon or fine tulle, took the classic silhouettes flowing on the body in perfect fit. Inno has always been known for powerful visuals in his gowns where he'd use either overpowering graphics or embroidered appliqués in clashing colors. But this time, he didn't play with colors but opted for black or white; he eschewed his trademark visual techniques and instead opted for a mastery of intricate construction by combining layers and layers of fabrics (usually chiffon). In their subtlety, they became powerful just the same.

An outstanding example was a white number with overlapping panels of white chiffon plunging in the back to reveal a black gown that hugged the bottom. Inno is one designer who's not reluctant to reveal skin without being vulgar, or trying hard to shock.

Understated gown

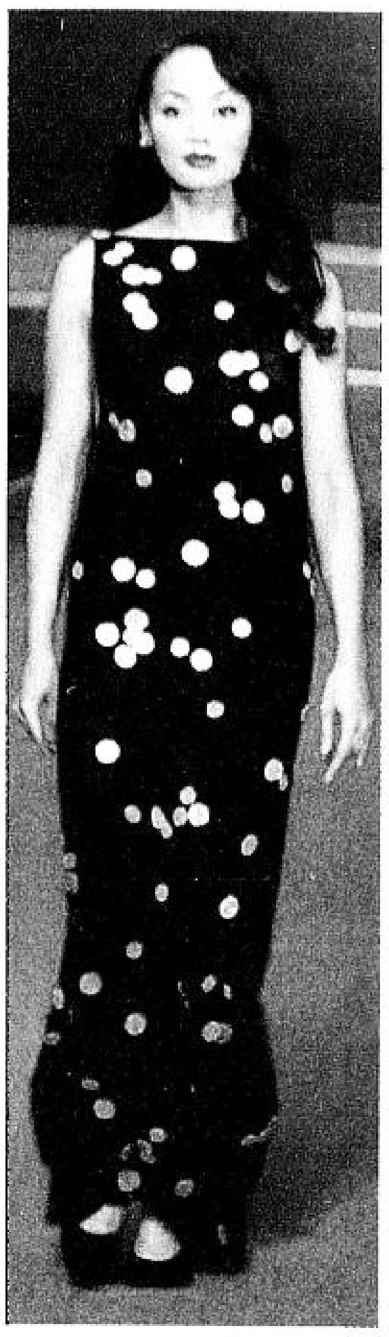
Obviously sure of his construction, he used ample draping, not to achieve the common Grecian look that Manila audience is too familiar with, but to create a distinctive columnar effect. Usually designers drape fabrics to hug the body; that's easily achieved. Inno chose to be different—he used draping to let the fabric fall like a soft straight column, and the volume achieved wasn't heavy, but supple. A good example was a black chiffon that fell in a draping at the ankle. He achieved this with the use of more fabrics at the ankle. That was sewing and construction at their best. And in this day, it is rare to see a designer who can do both—and achieve the right body proportion. This is where many young designers fail, and they usually try to camouflage this inadequacy by resorting to excessive ornamentation or inappropriate deconstruction.

The most understated in the collection was Inno's bridal gown. It was an unembellished coat dress (a gown actually) in off-white satin—a welcome break from the heavy artillery of design that the wedding gown has become. The Inno Sotto collection reminds you that Filipino designers are among the best sewers and construction masters in Asia. We hope that will not end with Inno's generation.

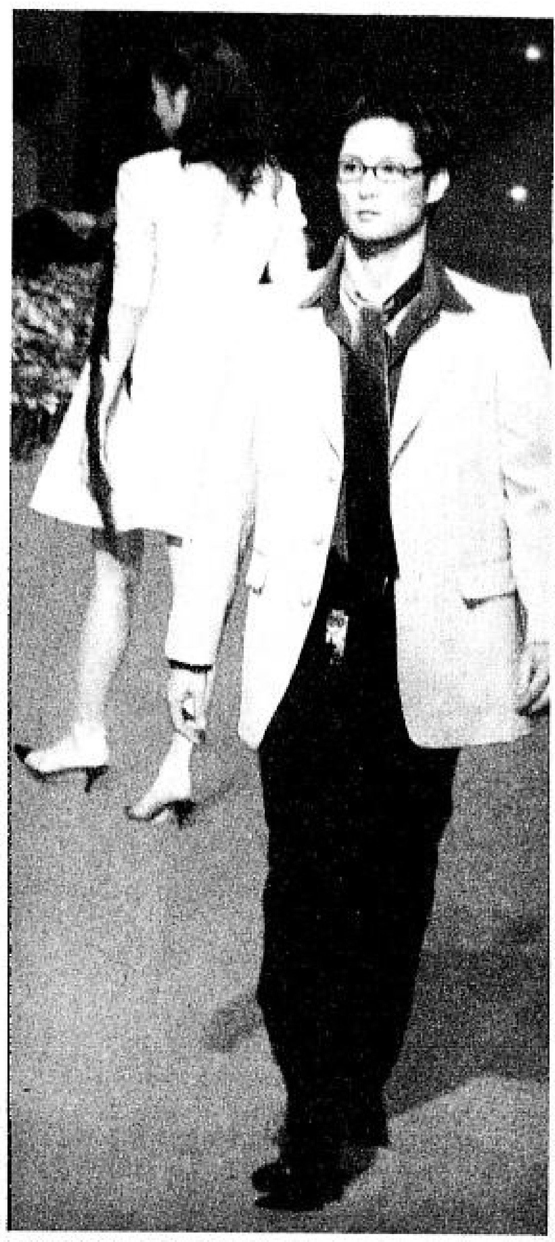
A few years ago I dared write that the country could be seeing the changing of the guard in fashion design, with Inno's generation being supplanted by the younger and increasingly popular ones. I was wrong. Since Inno and his league have set very high standards, their would-be successors have a long way to go. Pretenders to the throne must first learn restraint and discernment of trends.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

More photos on F4



JEWELMER GOWN. Discs of mother of pearl are sewn into this crepe gown.



THE STRAW-COLORED blazer brightens up a black-and-gray combination. Talk about marketing. The Swatch watch hangs on the belt instead of the traditional pocket watch. The look is complemented by Calvin Klein Eyewear. Men's shoes by Traffic in the background is narrow coat dress worn over shorts.

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Pork Inihaw with Laing Rice and Regular Softdrink
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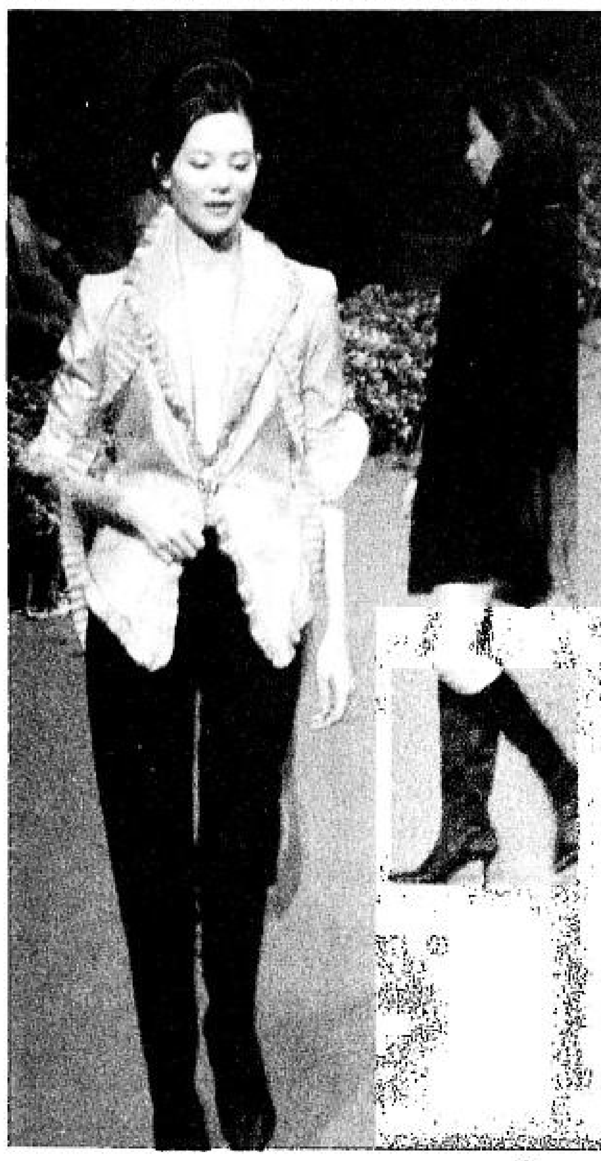
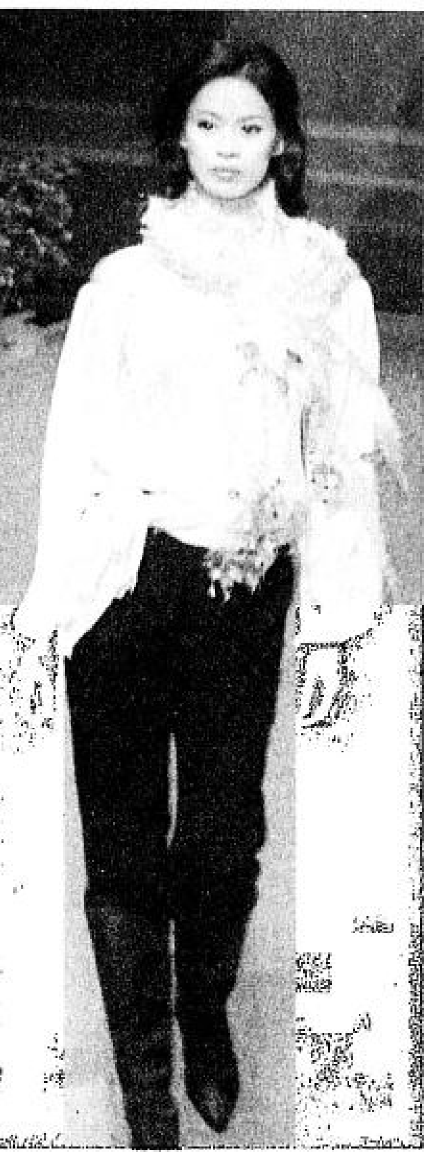
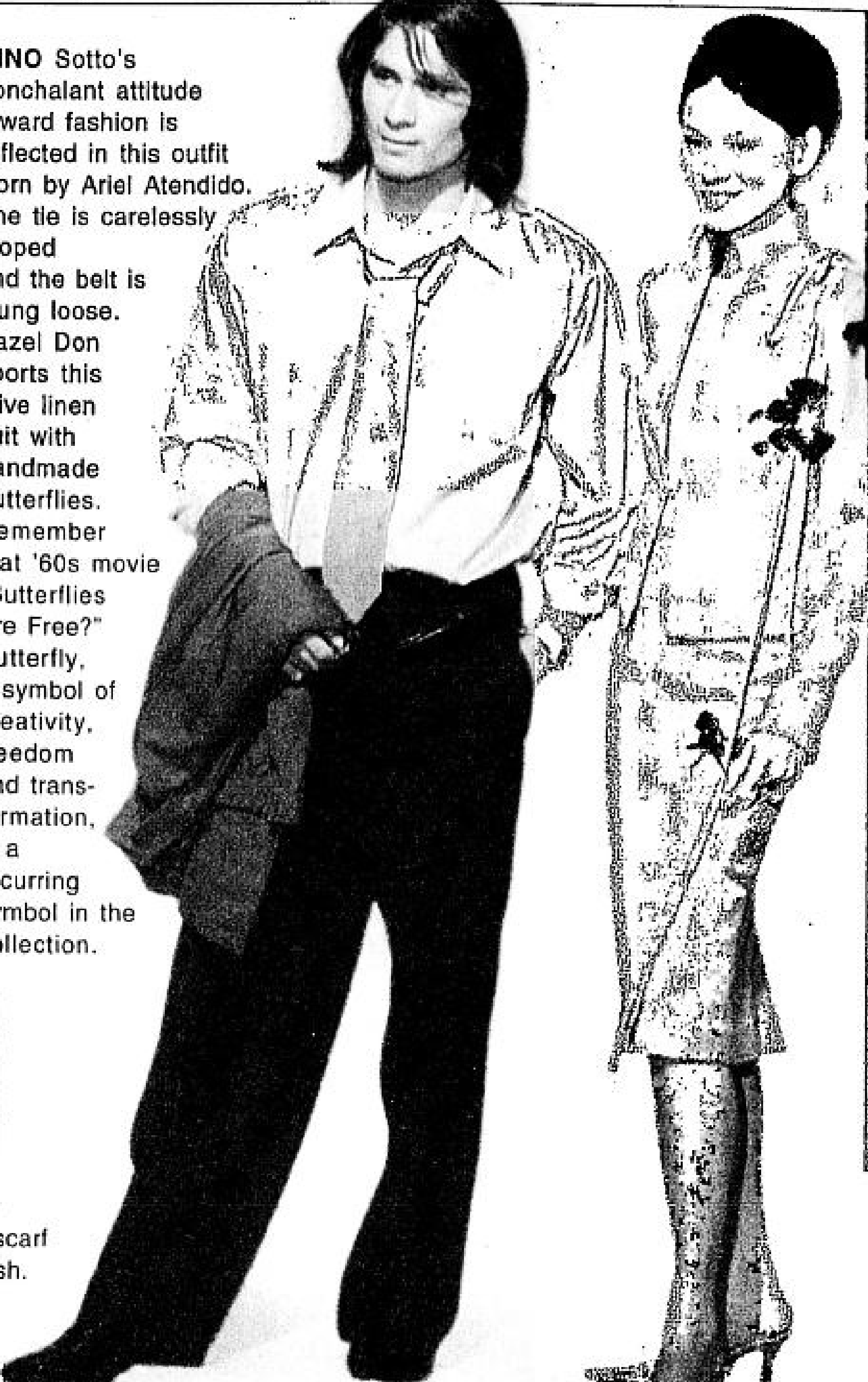


SARAH Meier wears this taffeta shirt accentuated with pleats. Other pleats hang nonchalantly. In the background is a chiffon bias cut butterfly dress.

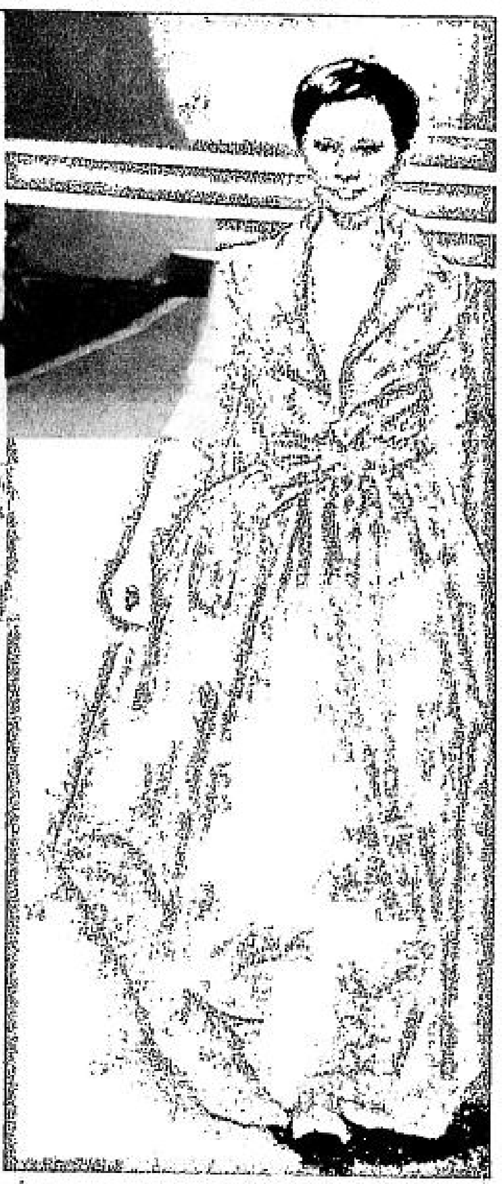
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA



FROM HISTORICAL movies, the off-the-shoulder silk chiffon top and crepe stretch pants are worn with boots by Janylin. The scarf is done in what Sotto calls his "lettuce" finish.



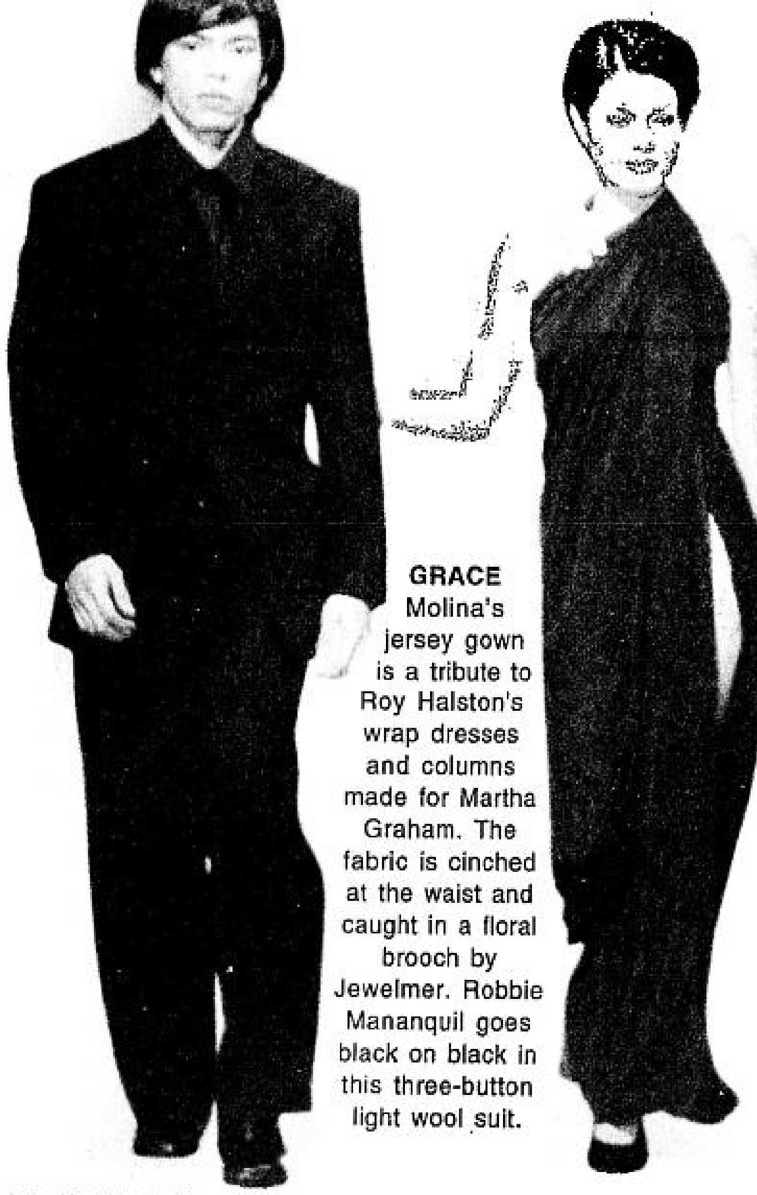
INNO Sotto's nonchalant attitude toward fashion is reflected in this outfit worn by Ariel Atendido. The tie is carelessly looped and the belt is slung loose. Eazel Don sports this olive linen suit with handmade butterflies. Remember that '60s movie "Butterflies Are Free?" Butterfly, a symbol of creativity, freedom and transformation, is a recurring symbol in the collection.



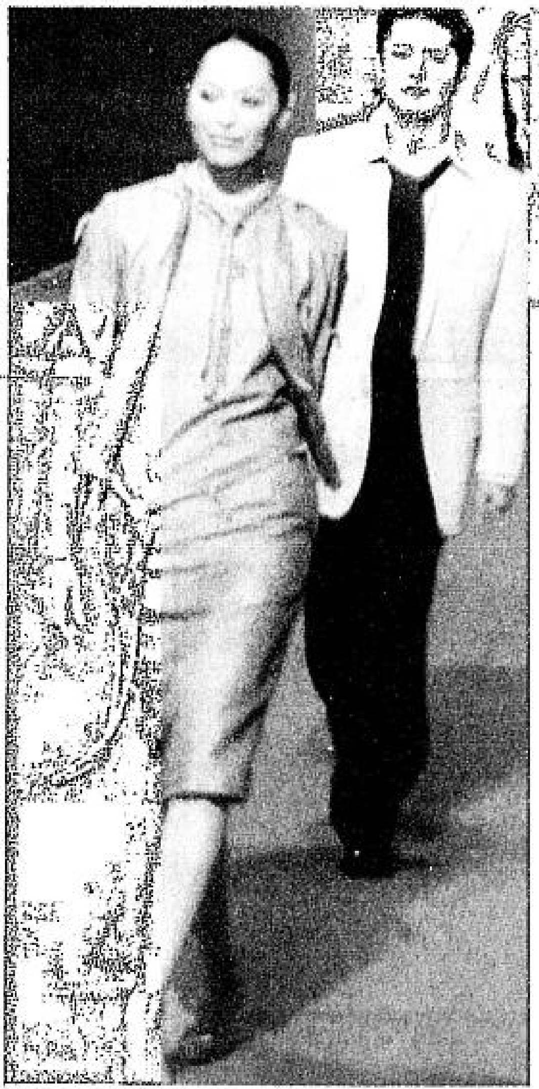
TAFFETA top is reminiscent of the way Audrey Hepburn tied her bathrobe in "Roman Holiday" and pouf ball skirt harks the silhouette of the '50s movies.

Why 2001 became the year of Inno Sotto

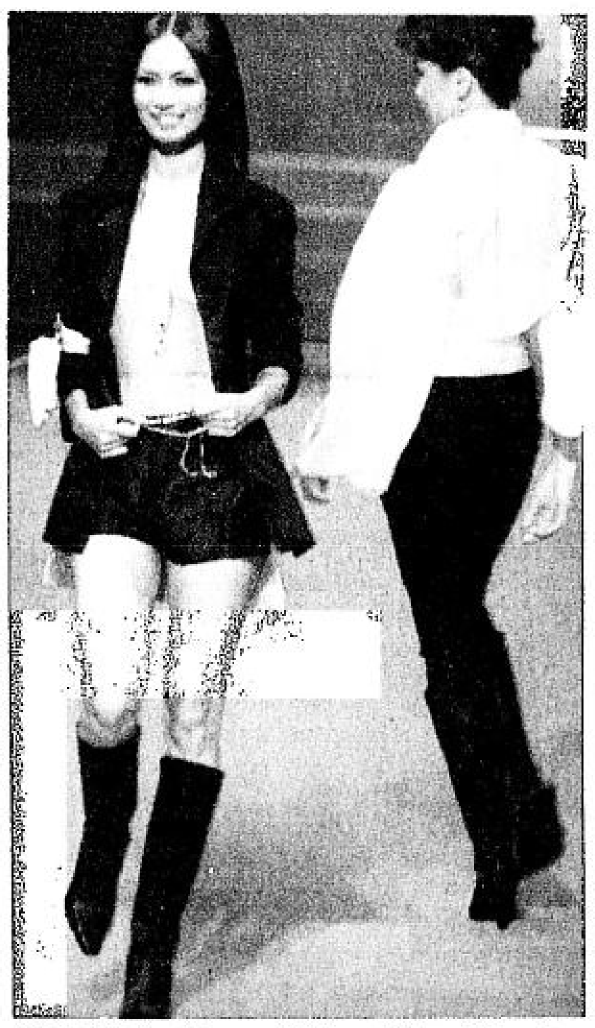
It's not only the collection but the stance his clothes took— a display of self-confidence and design discernment



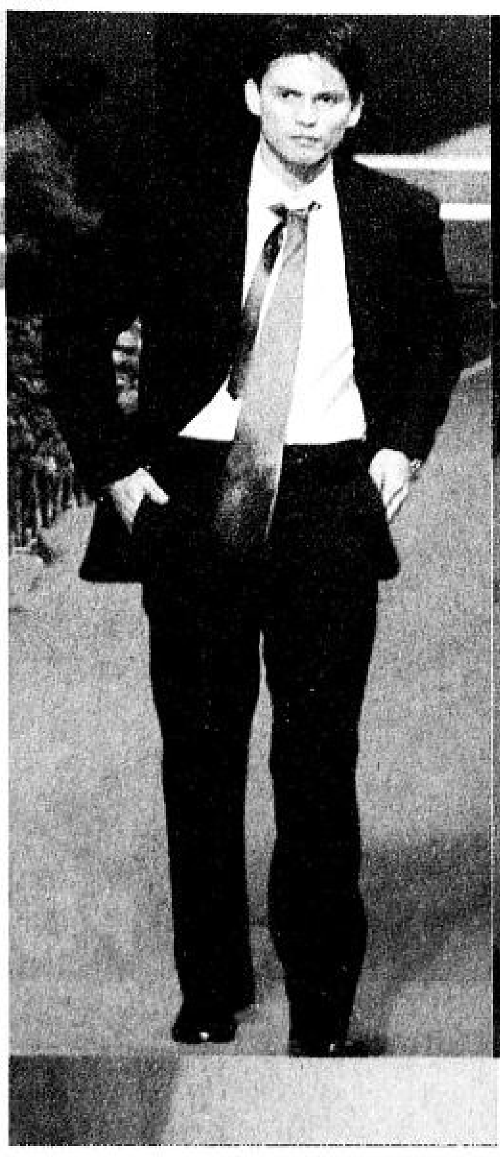
GRACE Molina's jersey gown is a tribute to Roy Halston's wrap dresses and columns made for Martha Graham. The fabric is cinched at the waist and caught in a floral brooch by Jewelmer. Robbie Mananquil goes black on black in this three-button light wool suit.



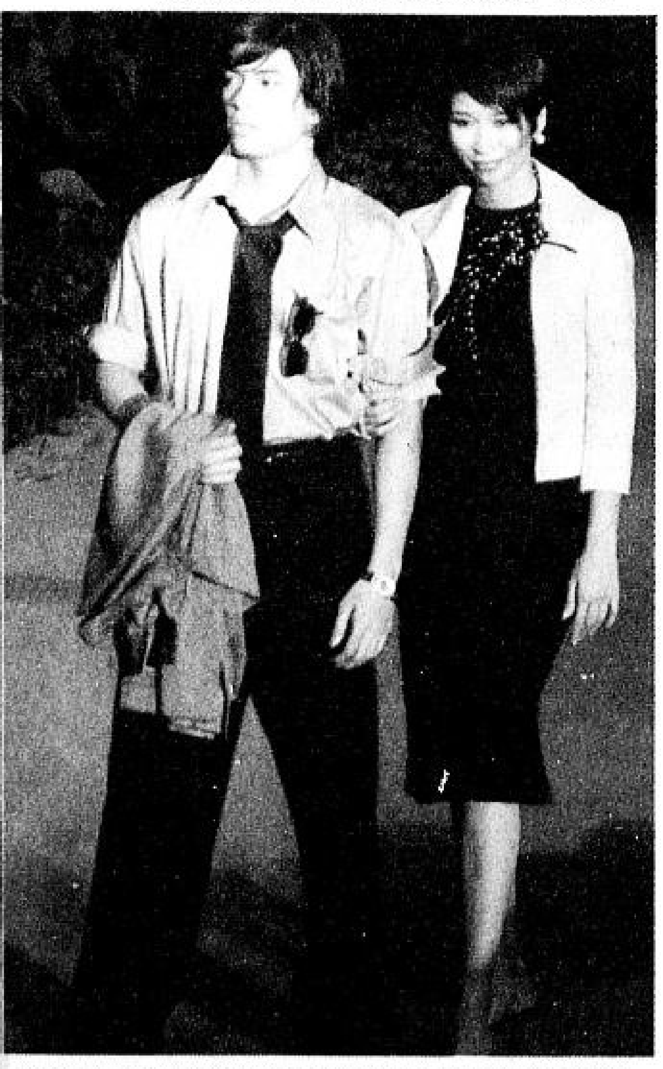
ISABEL Roces wears a raw silk jacket with strips of fringe. Mark Anthony Fernandez's light jacket over dark pants is reminiscent of the fashion in the movies of the '50s.



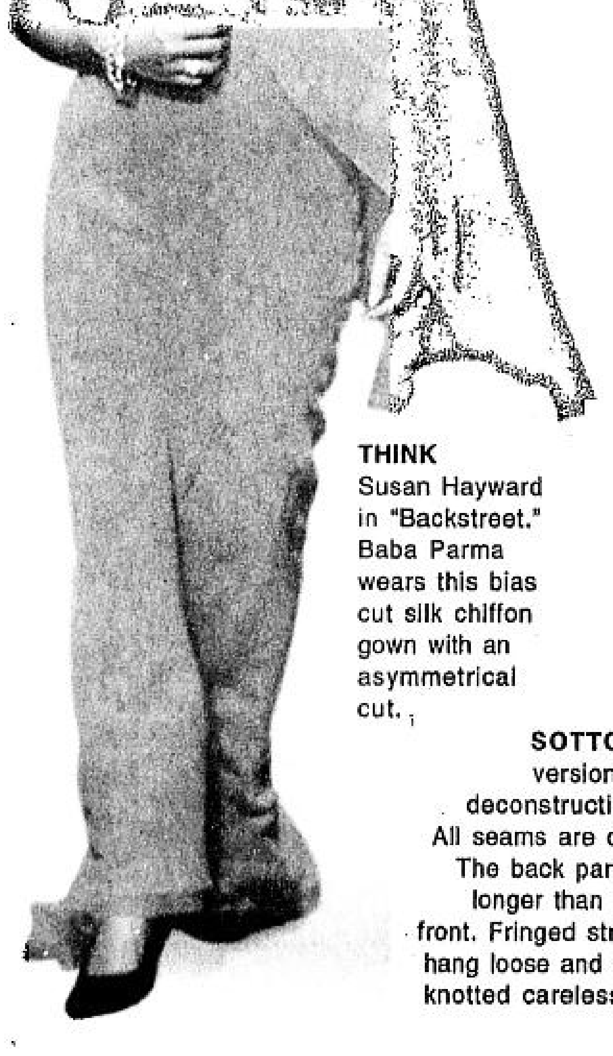
INSPIRED by "Cromwell," the taffeta shirt and hotpants that resemble doublets and the silk chiffon full-biased sleeves



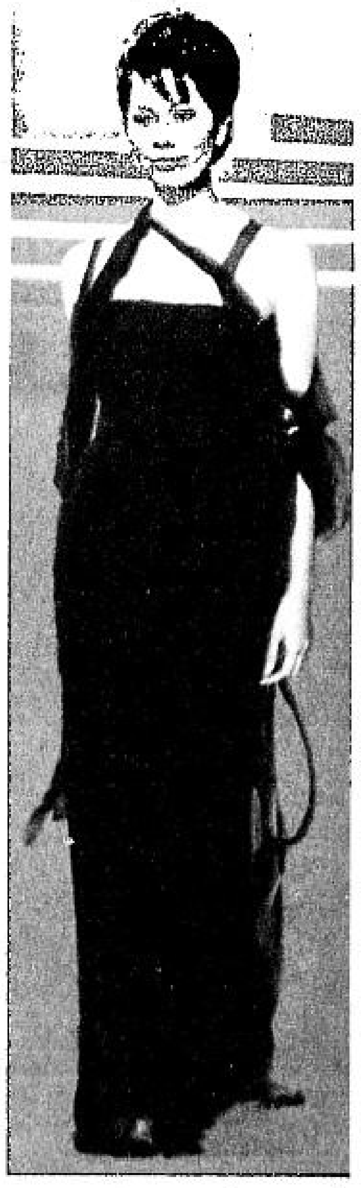
ZOREN Legaspi in a three-button-front suit and slim necktie. Think of the '60s Italian movies.



THE BLACK sheath and the linen jacket with three-fourths sleeves are reminiscent of the silhouettes popular in Doris Day movies.



THINK Susan Hayward in "Backstreet." Baba Parma wears this bias cut silk chiffon gown with an asymmetrical cut.



SOTTO'S version of deconstruction. All seams are out. The back part is longer than the front. Fringed strips hang loose and are knotted carelessly.

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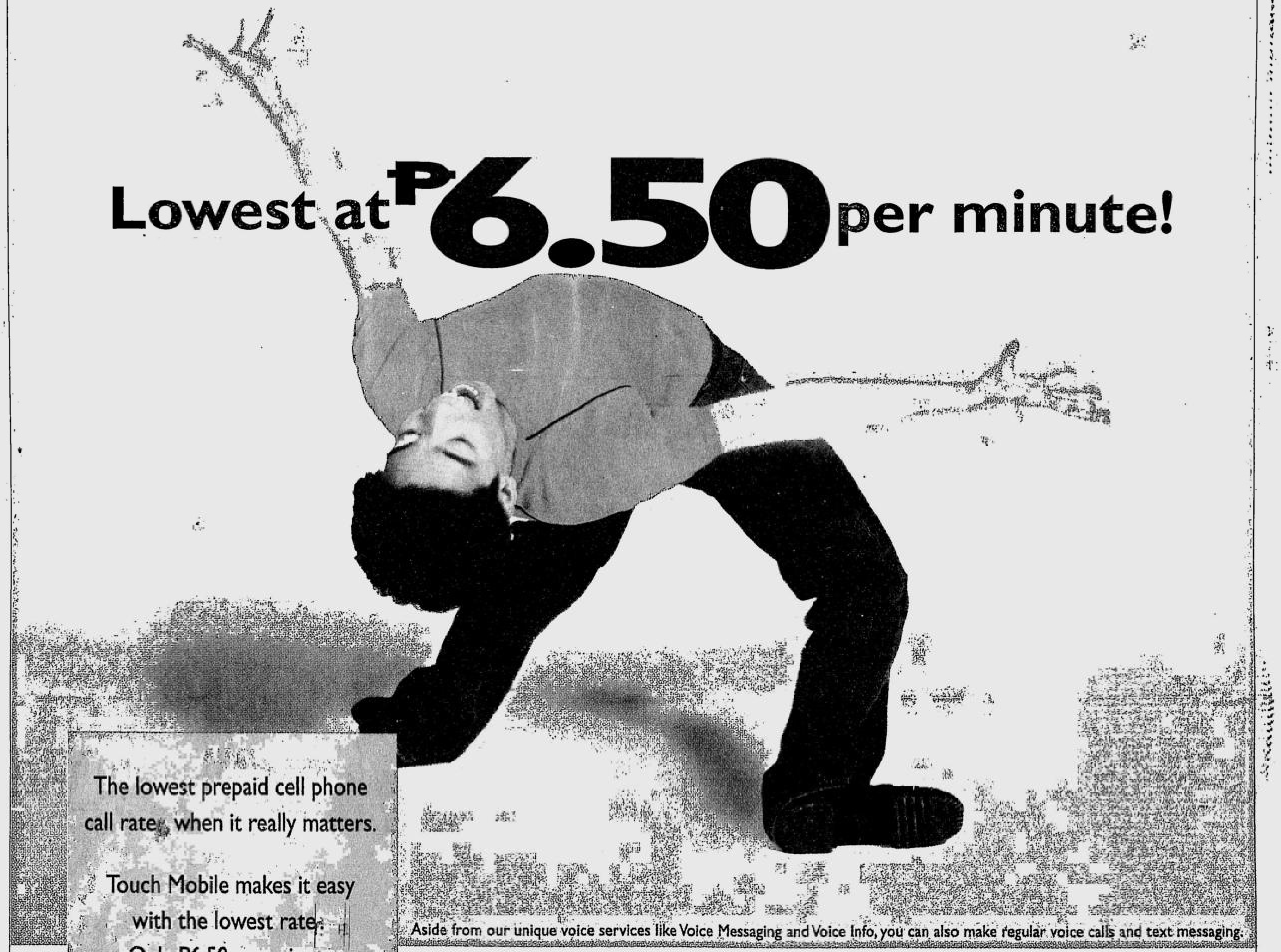

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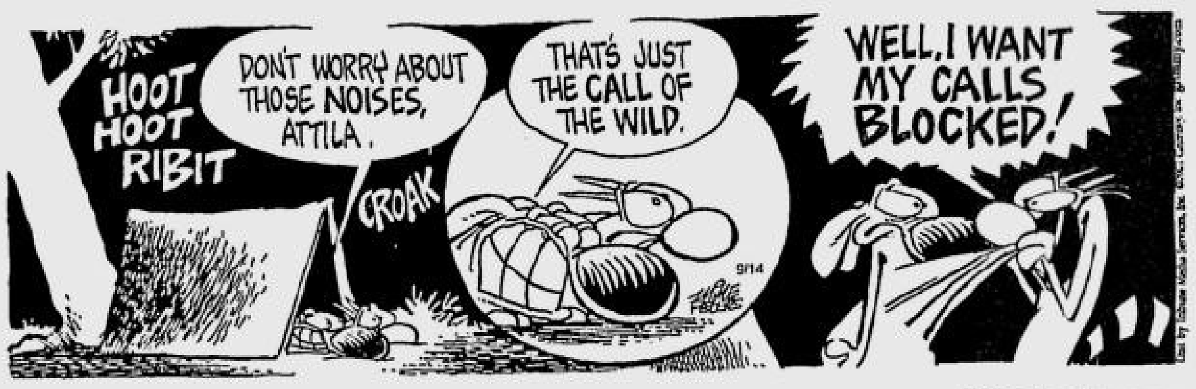
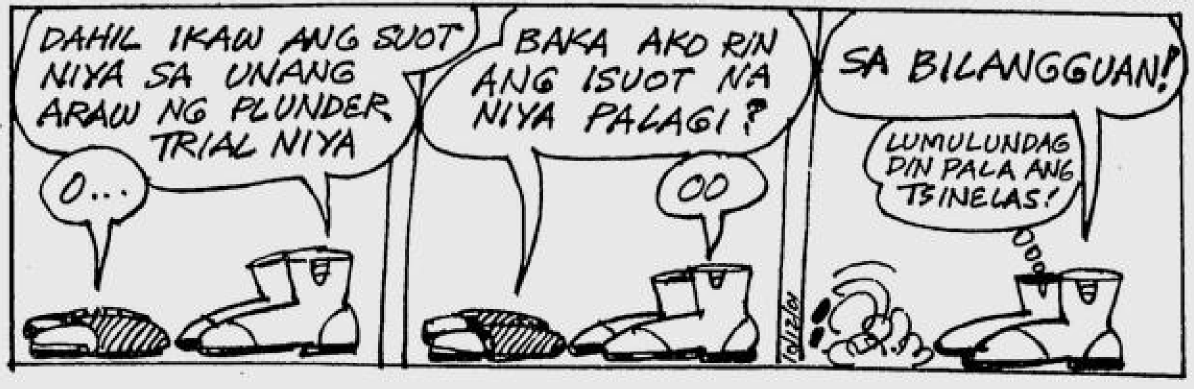
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HOOT HOOT RIBIT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE NOISES, ATTILA.
CROAK
THAT'S JUST THE CALL OF THE WILD.
WELL, I WANT MY CALLS BLOCKED!
9/14

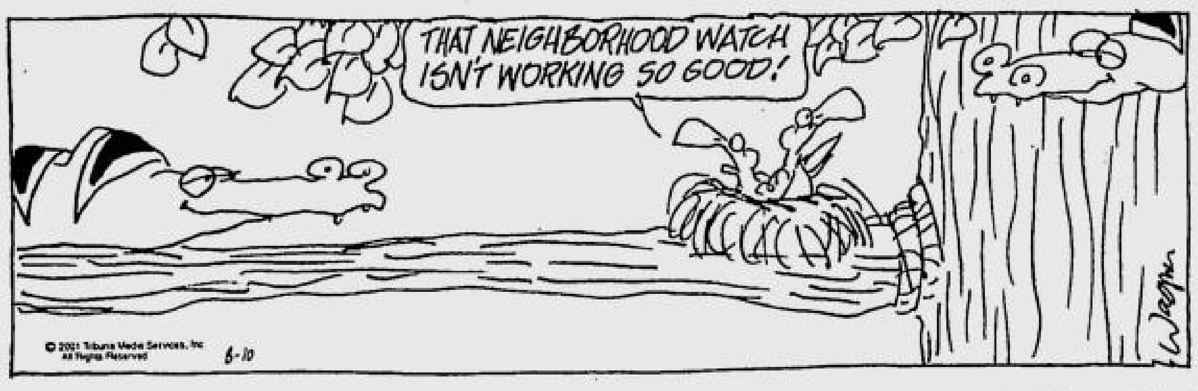
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL IKAW ANG SUOT NIYA SA UNANG ARAW NG PLUNDER TRIAL NIYA
O...
BAKA AKO RIN ANG ISUOT NA NIYA PALAGI?
OO
SA BILANGGUAN!
LUMULUNDAG DIN PALA ANG TSINELAS!
10/12/01

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THAT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ISN'T WORKING SO GOOD!
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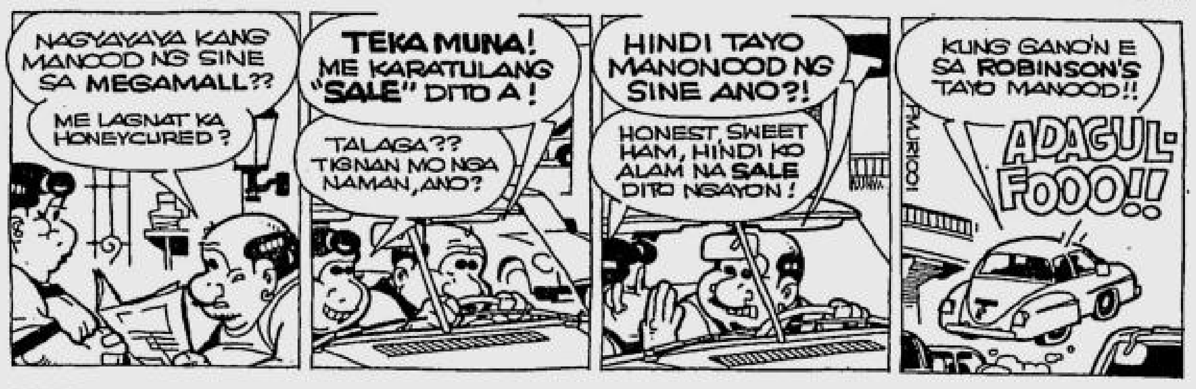
6-10
Wagner

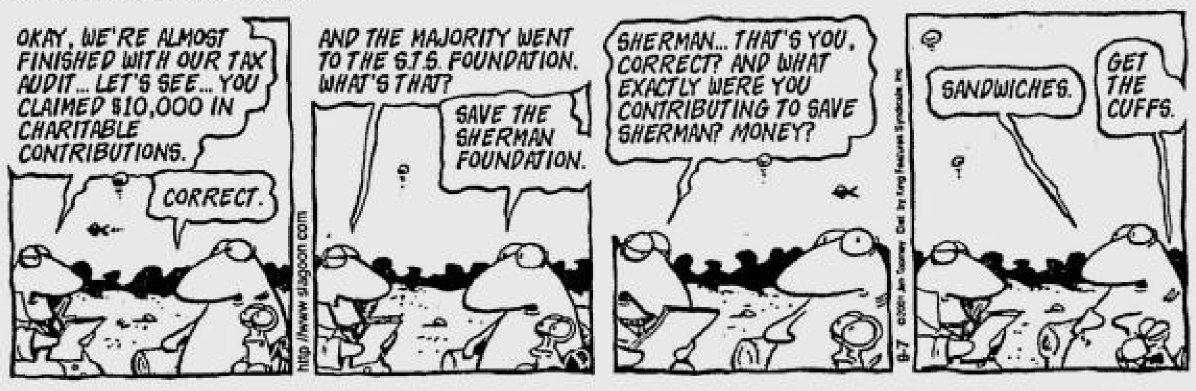
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGYAYAYA KANG MANOOD NG SINE SA MEGAMALL??
ME LAGNAT KA HONEYCURED?
TEKA MUNA! ME KARATULANG "SALE" DITO A!
TALAGA?? TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN, ANO?
HINDI TAYO MANONOOD NG SINE ANO?!
HONEST, SWEET HAM, HINDI KO ALAM NA SALE DITO NGAYON!
KUNG GANO'N E SA ROBINSON'S TAYO MANOOD!!
ADAGUL-FOOO!!

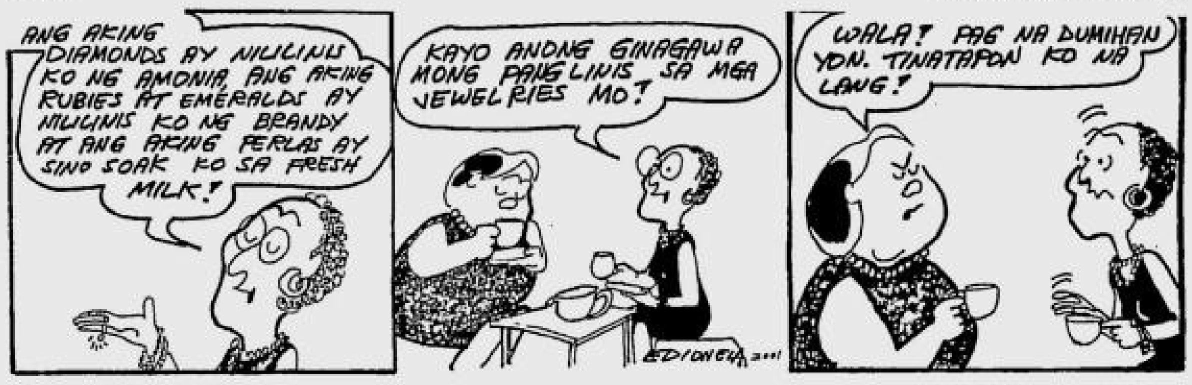
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, WE'RE ALMOST FINISHED WITH OUR TAX AUDIT... LET'S SEE... YOU CLAIMED $10,000 IN CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.
CORRECT.
AND THE MAJORITY WENT TO THE S.T.S. FOUNDATION. WHAT'S THAT?
SAVE THE SHERMAN FOUNDATION.
SHERMAN... THAT'S YOU, CORRECT? AND WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU CONTRIBUTING TO SAVE SHERMAN? MONEY?
SANDWICHES.
GET THE CUFFS.
http://www.slagoon.com

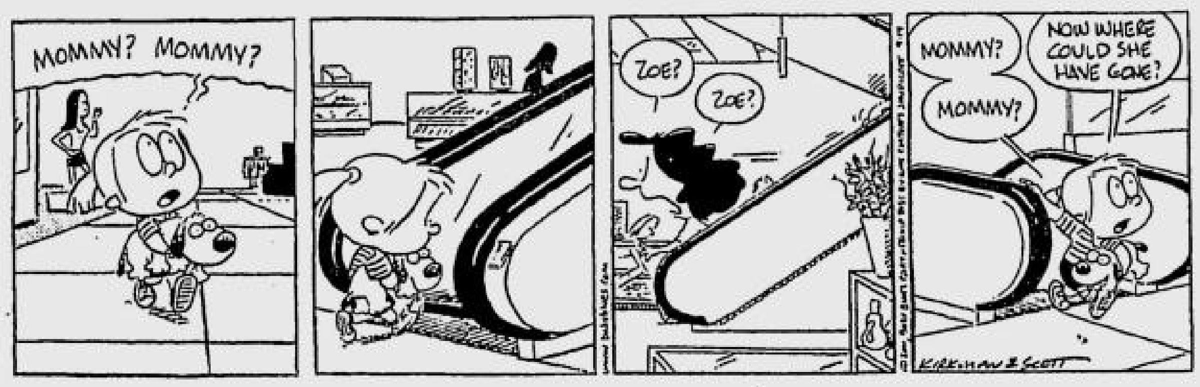
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG AKING DIAMONDS AY NILILINIS KO NG AMONIA, ANG AKING RUBIES AT EMERALDS AY NILILINIS KO NG BRANDY AT ANG AKING PERLAS AY SINO SOAK KO SA FRESH MILK!
KAYO ANONG GINAGAWA MONG PANGLINIS SA MGA JEWELRIES MO?
WALA! PAG NA DUMIHAN YON. TINATAPON KO NA LANG!
EDIONELA 2001

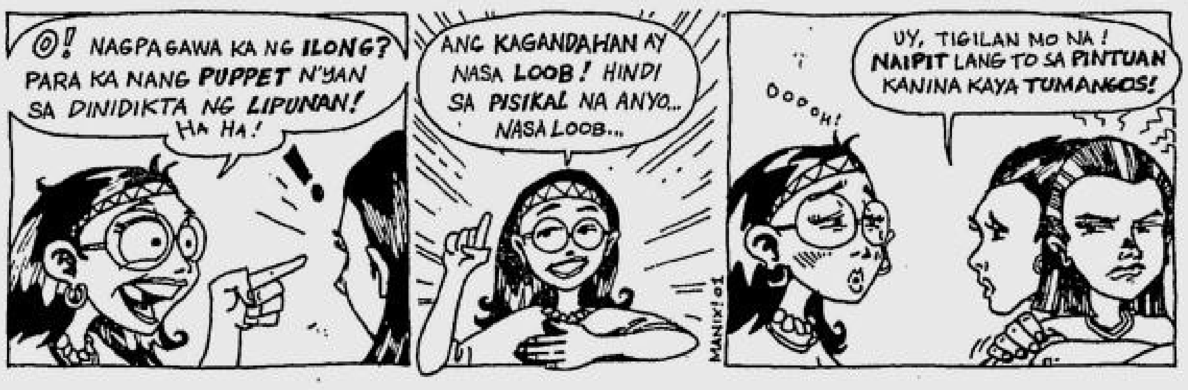
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY? MOMMY?
ZOE?
ZOE?
MOMMY?
MOMMY?
NOW WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

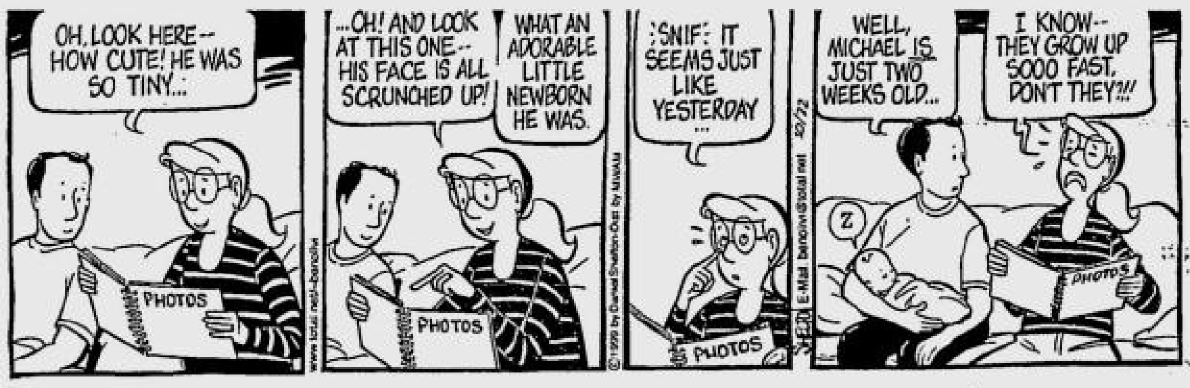
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


O! NAGPAGAWA KA NG ILONG? PARA KA NANG PUPPET N'YAN SA DINIDIKTA NG LIPUNAN! HA HA!
ANG KAGANDAHAN AY NASA LOOB! HINDI SA PISIKAL NA ANYO... NASA LOOB...
MANIX!01
OOOOH!
UY, TIGILAN MO NA! NAIPIT LANG TO SA PINTUAN KANINA KAYA TUMANGOS!

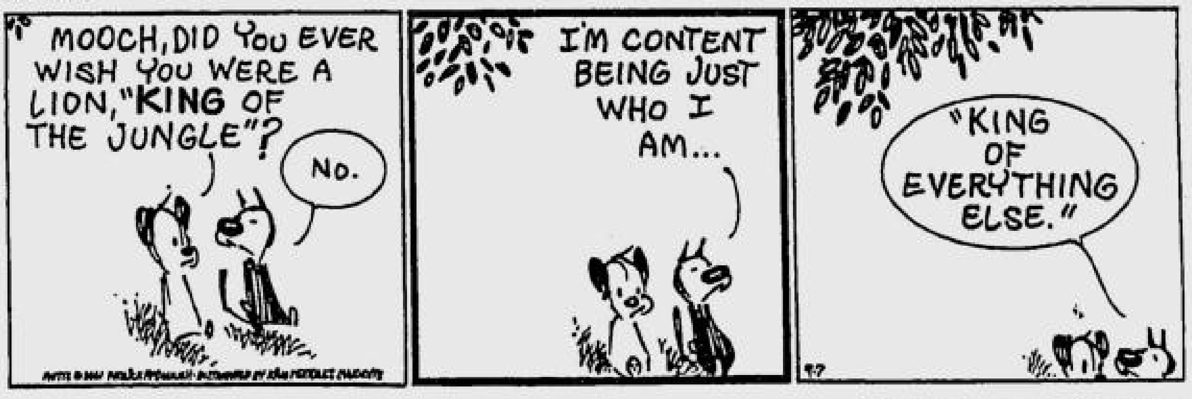
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH, LOOK HERE-- HOW CUTE! HE WAS SO TINY...
PHOTOS
...OH! AND LOOK AT THIS ONE-- HIS FACE IS ALL SCRUNCHED UP!
WHAT AN ADORABLE LITTLE NEWBORN HE WAS.
:SNIF: IT SEEMS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY ...
WELL, MICHAEL IS JUST TWO WEEKS OLD...
I KNOW-- THEY GROW UP SOOO FAST, DON'T THEY?!!
Z
10/12

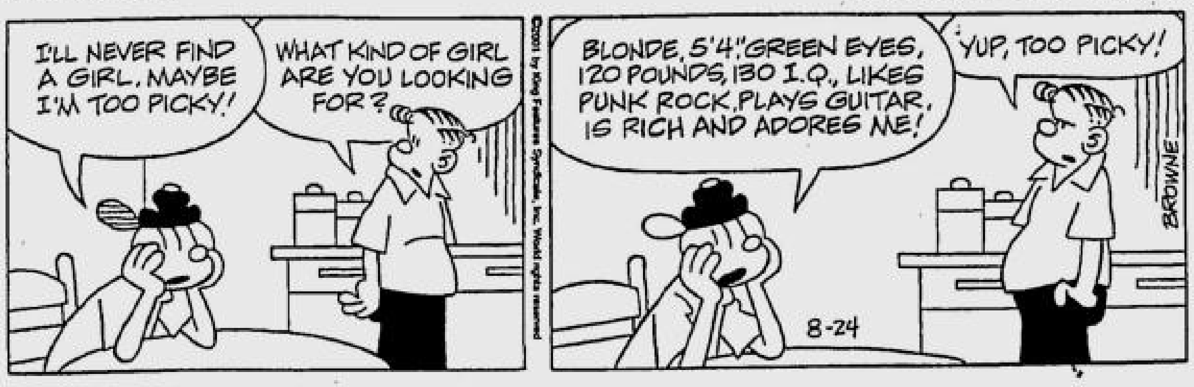
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH, DID YOU EVER WISH YOU WERE A LION, "KING OF THE JUNGLE"?
NO.
I'M CONTENT BEING JUST WHO I AM...
"KING OF EVERYTHING ELSE."

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'LL NEVER FIND A GIRL. MAYBE I'M TOO PICKY!
WHAT KIND OF GIRL ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
BLONDE, 5'4", GREEN EYES, 120 POUNDS, 130 I.Q., LIKES PUNK ROCK, PLAYS GUITAR, IS RICH AND ADORES ME!
YUP, TOO PICKY!
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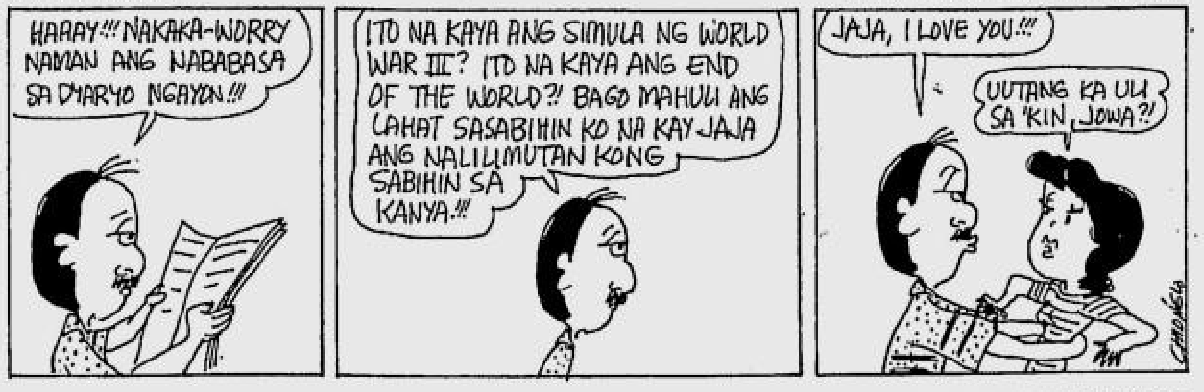
BROWNE
8-24

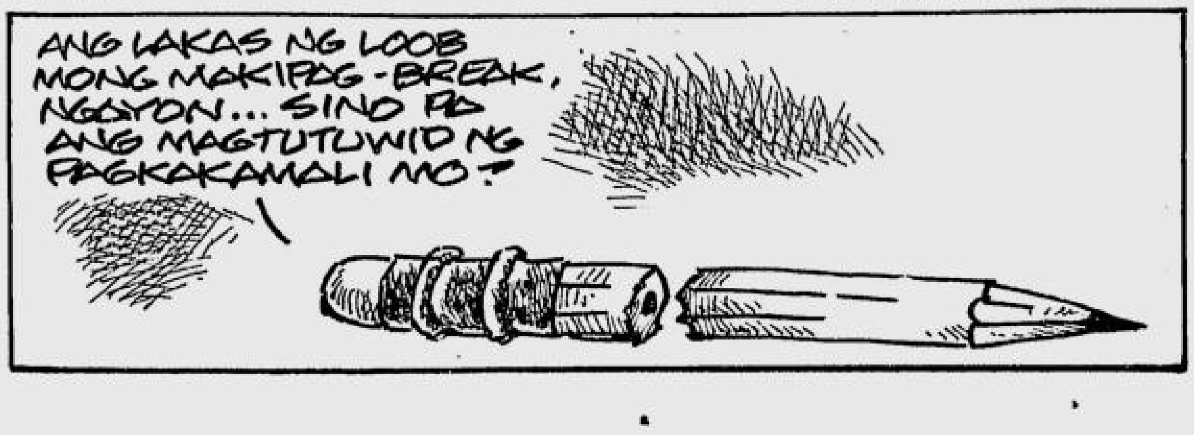
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HAAAY!!! NAKAKA-WORRY NAMAN ANG NABABASA SA DYARYO NGAYON!!!
ITO NA KAYA ANG SIMULA NG WORLD WAR III? ITO NA KAYA ANG END OF THE WORLD?! BAGO MAHULI ANG LAHAT SASABIHIN KO NA KAY JAJA ANG NALILIMUTAN KONG SABIHIN SA KANYA!!!
JAJA, I LOVE YOU!!!
UUTANG KA ULI SA 'KIN, JOWA?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG LAKAS NG LOOB MONG MAKIPAG-BREAK, NGAYON... SINO PA ANG MAGTUTUWID NG PAGKAKAMALI MO?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Luciano Pavarotti, Chris Wallace, Dick Gregory, Kirk Cameron, Susan Anton

Happy Birthday: You'll be a powerful competitor if you focus on your goals, but ignoring your personal life will make matters worse. Be honest with yourself and with loved ones. Take control, and all the pieces will fall into place. Your numbers: 6, 17, 19, 23, 27, 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Prepare to make necessary changes today. You can accomplish a great deal if you persuade others to pitch in. Your ability to complete the job will result in added responsibility and promotion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take advantage of opportunities and throw yourself into work. Avoid disputes with family members and lift their spirits. Arguing won't solve any problems.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't underestimate your talent, abilities or creative flair. You can come up with solutions to inefficiencies at work. Talk about emotional problems with your partner today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do your own thing and don't look back. Employ your ingenuity and creative talents to make money. Don't let jealous friends put you down or make you feel insecure. Believe in yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy self-improvement programs and competitive games. Spend energy getting into tip-top shape. You can impress others with your generous nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't divulge secret information if you're uncertain about your co-workers and boss. Go to the top if you're harassed or held back. If nothing is done, it may be time to move on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you haven't planned a vacation, at least plan a weekend. You will meet friends and enjoy new activities. You deserve to be pampered. Consider booking a massage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is not the best day to confront personal issues. Concentrate on work, do something entertaining afterward, and try to stay out of the line of fire at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your inititiative gives you a competitive edge. If you make a beeline for your goals, few will stand in the way or cut you off at the pass.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. Avoid joint ventures, and under no circumstances lend to friends or relatives. Hang onto your pennies.

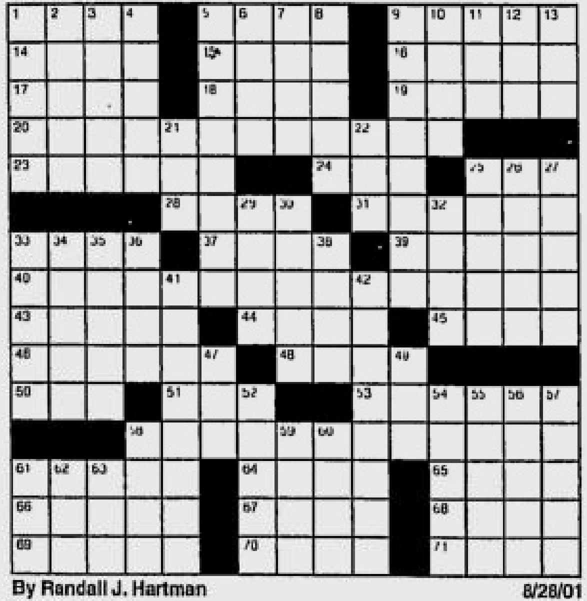
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be a lover and not a fighter today. Your contributions to organizations will enhance your reputation and bring in offers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop letting others do the work. Find out what's expected and show how capable you really are. You're going to shine like a star.

Birthday Baby: My, how charming and gracious you are. You have the ability to move others and to calm them down. You are clever and creative. You can always put a smile on other people's faces.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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33 34 35 36 37 38 39
40 41 42
43 44 45
46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57
58 59 60
61 62 63 64 65
66 67 68
69 70 71

By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA

8/28/01

ACROSS
1 Allows to
5 Lucy's mate
9 Spiral-horned antelope
14 "New Jack City" co-star
15 Above
16 Cairo in "The Maltese Falcon"
17 __ mater
18 Type of mackerel
19 Nearby
20 Subways
23 Music system
24 Bribe
25 Exclamations of surprise
28 Worry
31 Increase
33 Kett of comics
37 Dumbo's wings
39 Dunne or Ryan
40 Hanna-Barbera's cartoon horse
43 Ne plus __
44 March Madness org.
45 Without: Fr.
46 Funt and Ginsberg
48 "Jane __"
50 Director Spike
51 Army rcts.
53 Hemoglobin deficiency
58 Sweetened cornmeal mush
61 Madagascar primate
64 "__ Lang Syne"
65 Joyous event
66 Muse of poetry
67 Take off
68 Prayer ending
69 Go-ahead
70 Cold feet
71 Beatles' meter maid

DOWN
1 Munchhausen and Ananias
2 Acclamation
3 Home of the Sundevils
4 One of a flight
5 Falsified
6 At all times
7 Antitoxins
8 Jeremy of "Damage"
9 Of few words
10 Joe Orton play
11 Parabola
12 Heston's org.
13 "Runaway" singer Shannon
21 __ Leppard
22 Mayday letters
25 Met offering
26 Chinese cuisine
27 Gushes
29 Deserve
30 Slight amount
32 Work units
33 Peer
34 Veil material
35 Proof of ownership
36 Part of the plot?
38 Move to and fro
41 Captain of television
42 Pillager
47 Bro's sibling
49 Denouement
52 Crosier
54 Mystery award
55 Where to catch a Dolphin?
56 Narrow bay
57 Capital of Guam, formerly
58 Humble homes
59 Christmastime
60 Nolo contendere, for one
61 "__ Miserables"
62 Stat for Randy Johnson
63 Has permission

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	M	I	S		M	A	W	R		S	E	L	M	A
B	E	R	T		A	L	O	E		O	R	I	O	N
O	D	O	R		N	E	O	N		W	R	E	S	T
M	I	N	I	S		C	L	U	B	H	O	U	S	E
B	A	S	K	E	T		S	M	E	A	R			
			E	M	I	T		B	A	T		S	R	O
E	M	P	O	I	S	O	N	E	D		S	T	A	G
L	U	A	U	S		W	A	R		F	L	A	I	L
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P	U	N	C	H	L	I	N	E		S	T	I	L	E
O	H	A	R	E		E	A	R	S		I	N	C	A
P	U	T	I	N		R	I	G	A		C	A	I	N
S	H	O	P	S		S	L	O	P		K	I	D	S

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8/28/01

Before stepping on the red carpet

INNO Sotto prims up Eazel Don before the show.

ALL DOLLED UP. Rachel Soriano, Annette Coronel-Cruz, Apples Aberin, Baba Parma, Grace Molina, Eazel Don and Joey Mead

ROBBIE Mananquil

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

PATRICK Rosas creates a clean, matte look for Julia Quisimbing, who is tasked to model the bridal gown.

THE GUYS before the show: Paul Tanchi, Ronald Cuan, Andre Cruz, Paolo Paraiso, Zoren Legazpi

THE STYLING team: Toto Bagamasbad, Pipo (partly hidden), Jaime Ruben Bagamasbad, Leo, Nelson, Rikky and Patrick

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✓ **Get information on previous transactions**
✓ **Request for statement of account**
✓ **Reorder checkbook**
✓ **Transfer funds to other accounts**
✓ **Stop payment of checks**

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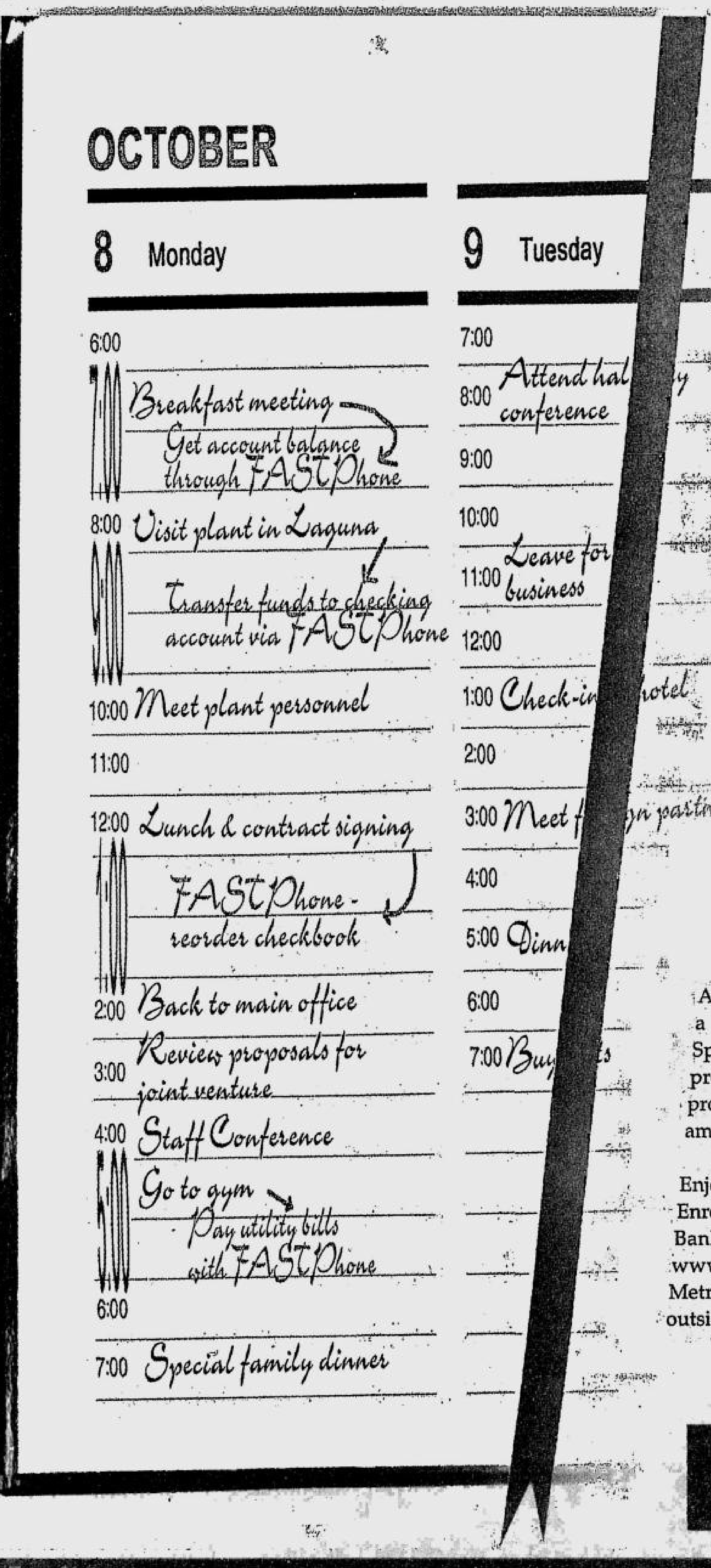
OCTOBER
8 Monday
9 Tuesday
6:00
7:00 Breakfast meeting
Get account balance through FASTPhone
8:00 Visit plant in Laguna
9:00 Transfer funds to checking account via FASTPhone
10:00 Meet plant personnel
11:00
12:00 Lunch & contract signing
1:00 FASTPhone - reorder checkbook
2:00 Back to main office
3:00 Review proposals for joint venture
4:00 Staff Conference
5:00 Go to gym
Pay utility bills with FASTPhone
6:00
7:00 Special family dinner
7:00
8:00 Attend hal y conference
9:00
10:00
11:00 Leave for business
12:00
1:00 Check-in hotel
2:00
3:00 Meet f gn partne
4:00
5:00 Dinn
6:00
7:00 Buy ts

Lipstick for every woman

CLARINS introduces Le Rouge, a lipstick that meets every woman's expectations.

Le Rouge gives intense and even color, and smooth texture. It also offers lip treatment benefits. By adding a new polymer to a mix of oils and waxes, the lipstick is quick and easy to apply and forms a very thin, adherent film that functions like a second skin on the lips.

Coming in 36 different shades, Le Rouge gives a stable intense color that lasts all day.

Like all Clarins cosmetic products, it offers lip treatment benefits. The formula's natural wax softens the lips, Vitamin E provides age-control care while castor and wheat germ oils together with shea butter help to smoothen the skin.

Le Rouge and other Clarins cosmetic and skin care products are available only at Rustan's.

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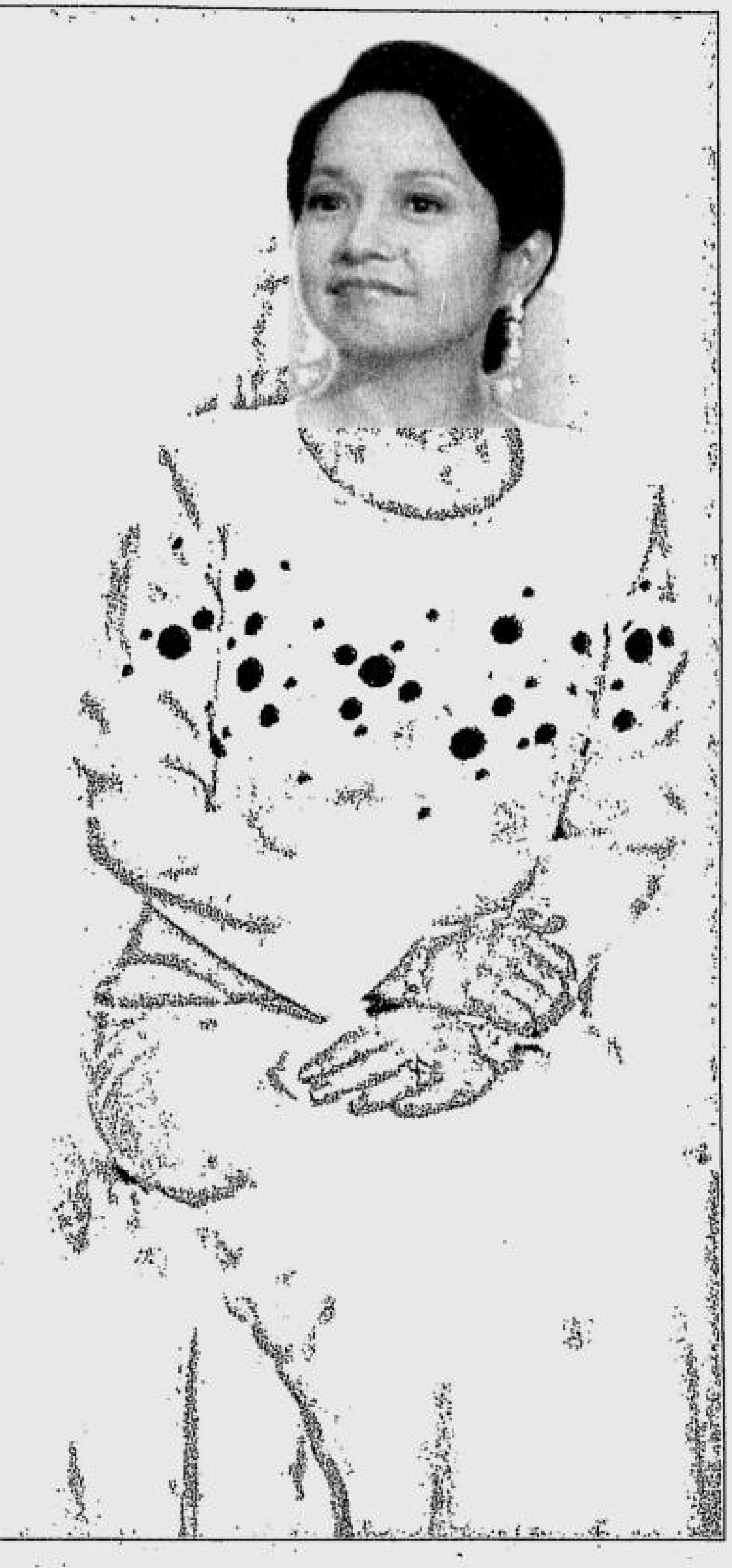
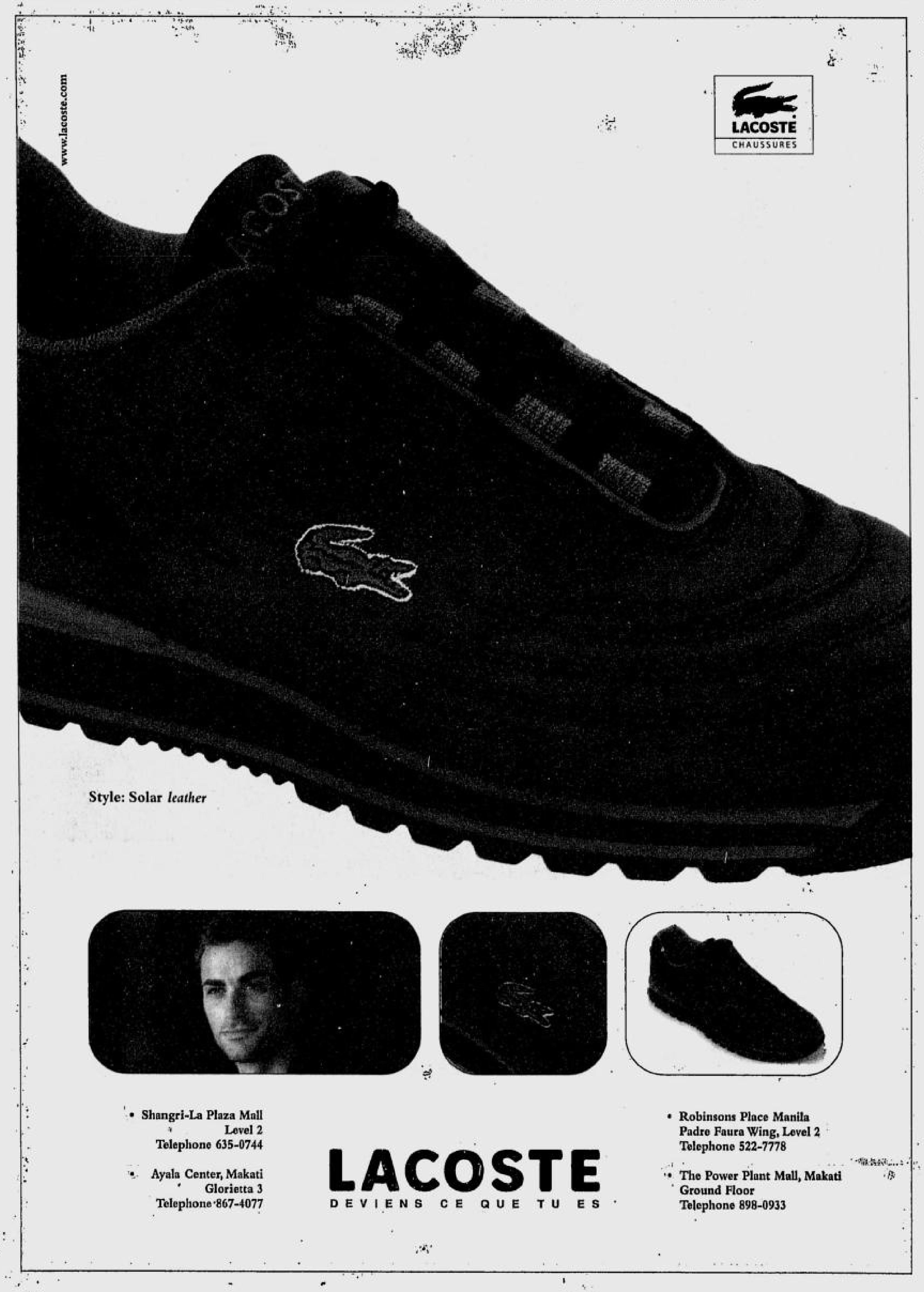


PRACTICAL PRESIDENT. Like her late mother, former first lady Eva Macapagal, President Macapagal Arroyo came on time at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. She didn't keep guests in Inno Sotto's fashion show waiting, unlike her predecessors. The President didn't mind being seen in the same outfit again. She wore the yellow crepe gown with velvet dots made by Joe Salazar for the debut issue of Philippine Tatler. Sotto will make her clothes for future trips including the Apec Summit. Just as in politics, the President tries to stay neutral in fashion camps.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA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Pricey hair care system sells briskly

A MONTH after its launch, Clinique's Simple Hair Care System sales performance has exceeded Rustan's expectations. This line accounts for 8 percent of total sales.

Why would women buy a shampoo that is P510 a pop or, with a conditioner, spend a total of P1,110?

Consumers who have tried the product say that, unlike other shampoos, Clinique doesn't make their scalps itch or flake. Others say their hair becomes so featherweight and acquires body, making the use of mousse unnecessary. Even the special brushes that go with the system, which cost more than P1,000, are moving fast.

Just like its 3-Step Skin Care System, Clinique's Hair Care System consists of three stages—cleansing, conditioning and styling. All you need are the shampoo, conditioner and hairbrush.

Before launching the product, Clinique conducted a research on the market's needs. Results showed that women were most dissatisfied with their conditioner.

"Since most women were primarily concerned with dry, damaged hair, they were eager to learn tips for better conditioning. We think this is due to the fact that most women want a conditioner that leaves a nice skip through their fingers while they are in the shower. The problem is that if a conditioner leaves that skip, it is because it is a detangler and coats the hair on the outside shaft so that it doesn't detangle," explains Jane Lauder, executive director of the Treatment Marketing Clinique International.

Results also showed that more than 50 percent of women in the United States color-treat their hair to cover the gray or to experiment for fashion reasons. Thus, damage and dryness are also major concerns.

"What we discovered in the marketplace was that most products available for color-treated hair were designed to be very moisturizing since color precision dries hair. That may help in maintaining the hair's balance and, therefore, help the color to last longer. But usually these formulas are very heavy. The problem is many women who color fine hair want their hair to be moisturized but not weighed down; they don't want their hair limp or greasy from heavy conditioners. We have taken all hair types into consideration in developing Clinique Simple Hair Care," says Lauder.

Clinique's Simple Hair Care System provides various levels of conditioning and cleansing for all hair concerns.

"Achieving great style will depend on a customer's hair type and what climate or environmental issues exist. For women living in drier climates, the right level of conditioning is going to play a major role. In environments with more humidity, control may be a primary concern, particularly for women with curly hair. Urban dwellers may need to use a clarifying shampoo, like our Exceptionally Clean, on a more regular basis to rid hair of pollutants," says Lauder.

The company works with hair stylist Jimmy Paul to educate the global team of Clinique Consultants. Paul observes that women's most common concerns are hair that does not hold its shape all day, hair that does not have enough volume and hair that is lifeless. Women with curly hair want it straight, and vice versa.

Models have dry hair due to too much coloring. "I always travel with Clinique's Dramatic Moisture conditioner, which makes even the most over-processed, dry hair soft, shiny and manageable," Paul says. "I often use it in photo shoots because it can be applied directly on dry hair. I just comb it through, wrap the hair in a towel and let the model sit for 20 minutes while it repairs the hair."

ERICA Marquez uses the Daily Shampoo Everyday Cleansing and Super Condition Restoring Conditioner that replaces moisture lost to chemical processes, blow drying or environmental assaults. It fortifies the hair shaft with proteins, resulting in shiny, healthy hair.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DANNY KATALBAS AND LOURD RYAN RAMOS EMPHASIS SALON, ROCKWELL INFORMATION CENTER
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Trend for the remainder of 2001

By Georgina C. Solina

ONE way to test an astrological forecasting's accuracy is to let it happen first before taking it seriously. Put it aside for a while, and then go back to it for validation. I intended to cover in June the last three months of 2001 by projecting them ahead of time using the New Moon and Full Moon charts. I had slept on the data until the New York World Trade Center blast "woke" me up. Then the many phone calls came asking my husband and me, "Is it the end of the world? Will the US go into a full-scale war with a back-up arsenal of nuclear bombs tucked in its silos, now that they have been attacked?"

We looked at the New Moon chart closest to Sept. 11. We found Mars, the planet of war, right smack in the Tenth House of the world chart almost conjunct to Midheaven. We understood then why some astrologers were warning the people who are now in a state of panic, because if the energies of Mars in that placement (coerced by other planets) were allowed to operate in excess, its effects could be devastating. And when you keep hearing on CNN every 10 minutes US President George W. Bush urging America to unite and defeat the enemies at all costs, and when you keep hearing about Nostradamus' predictions seconded by local astrologers, then there must be basis for the doomsday fears.

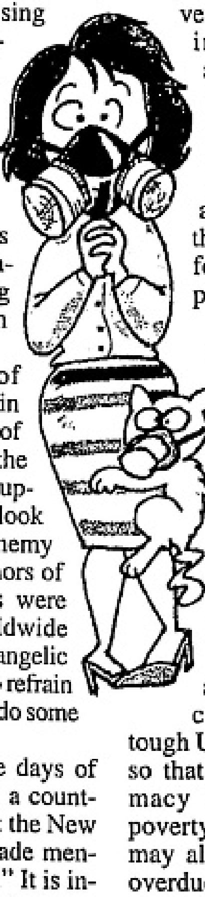
I calmly advised my panicking friend living in a high-rise condominium to stay overnight with a close friend who lives in a one-story house on Sept. 17, the day an astrologer told her would be disastrous for tall buildings. I told her America could not go to war; the enemy was nowhere to be seen. Heaven was smiling on us. There was a beautiful Grand Trine configuration of planets involving Uranus, Mercury and Saturn in the same horoscope of Sept. 17 that suggested divine protection against violence.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

What happened

Between Aug. 19 to Sept. 16, we read by hindsight that there would be trouble among the ruling elite of the world, probably arising from long-buried resentments. In the financial scene, the stock exchange would show an unusual slump, even a collapse, and there would be bank failures. There could be serious troubles for water companies; there could be mining disasters and bombings in public facilities.

Neptune, planet of illusions and paradoxes, in the first house of Sept. 11 of the New York chart, had the effect of turning things upside down. It told us to look within our soul, for the enemy might be there. Amid rumors of war, the electronic mails were whizzing messages worldwide authored both by men and angelic beings urging US leaders to refrain from military strikes and to do some soul-searching instead.



After Sept. 11, are the days of civilization diminished to a countdown? On the lighter side: the New Moon chart of Oct. 17 made mention of "a mining disaster." It is interesting to take note that after three weeks of digging in the rubble, the rescue workers are now "mining" for some $200 million worth of gold and silver buried underneath the ruins of the World Trade Center.

Between Sept. 17 to Oct. 16, the chart says this could be a period when public health becomes a serious problem due to gastrointestinal epidemics or other outbreaks. This could also be a month of labor strikes, vehicular accidents, and disputes in religious and legal circles. Congressional debates may become unusually unruly.

What came to pass? On Oct. 1, on the first day of trial for plunder of former President Joseph Estrada, he came to court in hospital slippers and without lawyers. The watchdog group Plunderwatch demanded that Estrada's lawyers be cited for contempt for "obvious conspiracy" to delay the case.

At the Senate, hearings on the links of the police to the illegal drug trade continued. Then on Oct. 2, there was an outbreak of flu in several upscale schools east of Manila. Had terrorists unleashed lethal microbes? Had a biological attack started?

> The Sept. 11 tragedy will continue to influence world events in the last quarter

There were more rumblings on the political front when Sen. Panfilo Lacson, accused of narcotic links, charged Mike Arroyo, the first gentleman, of using Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds to benefit administration senatorial candidates last May. Enraged administration Sen. Joker Arroyo (no relation) took the floor and charged the opposition of "dirty tricks" in cahoots with "auction journalism."

More to come

Indications show that between Oct. 17 and Nov. 17, there may arise another trouble in pleasure resorts, similar to the Dos Palmas raid last summer by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. There may also be an increase in crimes against women and children. There is incipient discontent in the armed forces and the police, possibly because of congressional inquiries on military and police links with narcotics. Pluto conjunct, Philippine Ascendant of June 12, is in an evil position. It is adversely affected by Saturn. This indicates there may be agitation among the people due to secret propaganda, crime, suicide, murder and the like. The nation may experience inner struggles as a result of their attachment to the past and their aspiration for the future like the 2004 presidential election.

However, Pluto in Sagittarius expands the conception of home to a universal magnitude. This is a cosmic signal that we are entering the Age of Aquarius with its shifting paradigms. This urges us to choose between following the high road or the low road, right or wrong, truth or falsehood, honesty or deceit.

Thus, the planes of ideas are subject to constant change and revision. The tough US war posturing may soften so that Bush may consider diplomacy and humanitarian aid to poverty-stricken Afghanistan. He may also decide to pay the long-overdue dues the US owes the United Nations to reduce international criticism.

The call for peace all over the world is deafening. The call of adventure is insistent. Those behind terrorism must be hunted down by special forces on land in the forbidding caves of Afghanistan. There will be spiritual awareness among the masses. In the Philippines, the Opposition and neighboring countries may cause trouble. The nation may suffer earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, failure of crops, and drought. There may be explosions in public buildings when Mars conjoins Uranus, the planet of sudden changes.

From Nov. 15 to Dec. 14, the New Moon chart shows sudden and unforeseeable developments in government circles, which will require careful management. If not, there may be defeat and resignation. There may be protest rallies and attacks against the ruler. But the President will prevail, as her own chart shows some degree of triumph. The period shows military activity.

On the other hand, the coming conjunction of Mars and Uranus can

TREND/ p.G2

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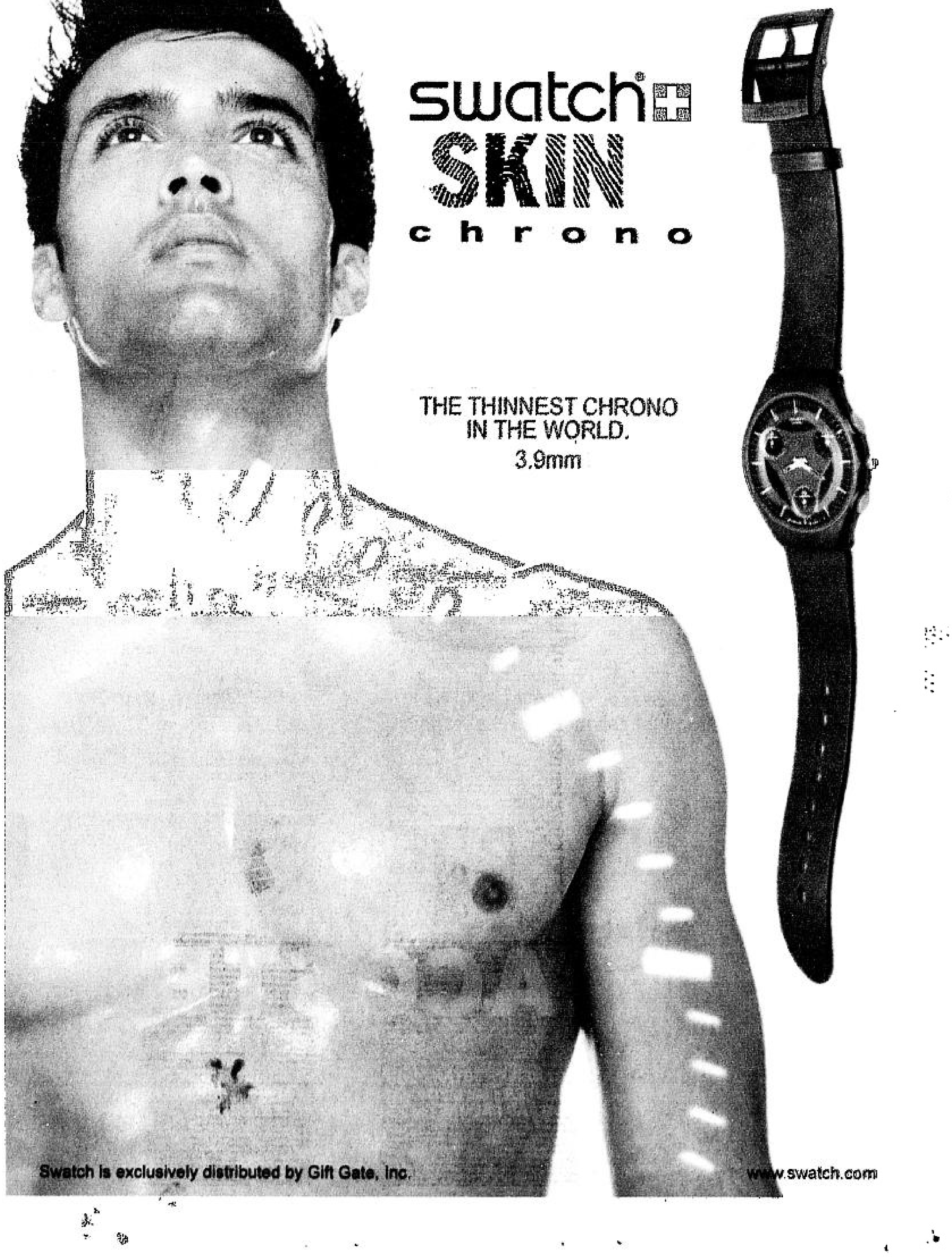
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De-stress with a click of a mouse

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

IN ITS website, the Relaxation Center (www.relax7.com) dubs itself as "your very own place to find the methods and means to help you relax during turbulent times and take with you into your daily life."

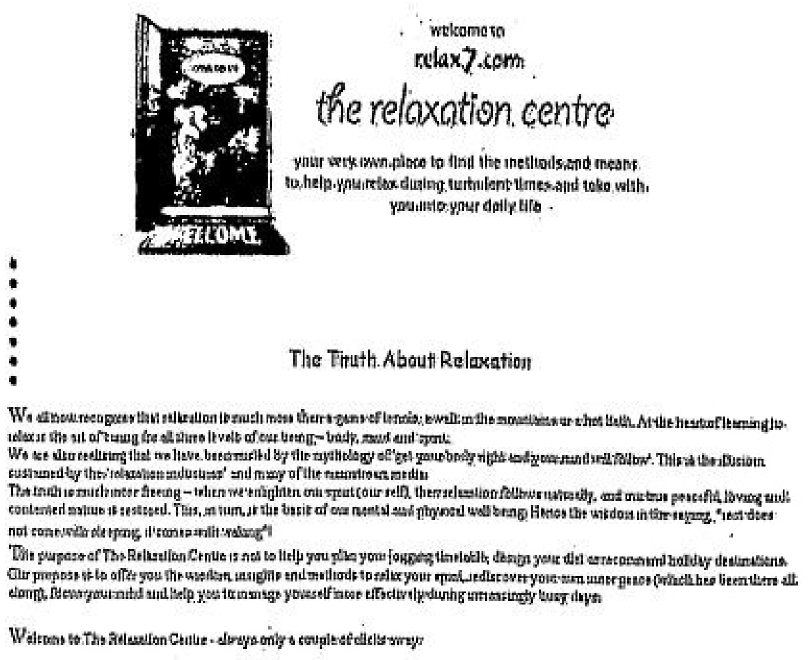
Founder Mike George has given seminars all over the world on relaxation techniques; he has also written books on the subject. A place on the Internet seems like a logical step to supplement all this.

The center aims to offer wisdom, insights and methods to help people relax their spirit and discover inner peace. George believes that finding ways to relax our bodies is not enough. He says the true path to relaxation is through the mind and spirit and real relaxation is only possible when we are free of fear.

The site is user-friendly and easy to navigate. It basically consists of seven "rooms" that one can "visit" to develop strategies for relaxation. The first room is called "Chilling Out." It features a thought for the day, an idea to ponder on, which changes every day. You are encouraged to print it for contemplation. The day we logged on, the thought was "Live now." With CNN in the background reporting on recent events that cause concern, it seemed appropriate to dwell on that thought. The accompanying explanation told us to let go of the past and stop worrying about imagined futures.

> Believe it or not, you can relax while on the road—while on the Information Superhighway

We really need to challenge our beliefs and perceptions because we somehow get lazy and tend to think by rote perpetuating the same fears, regrets and anxieties.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The Truth About Relaxation

The next room is "Visual Relax." This consists of visualization exercises that are changed weekly. It is suggested that you set aside 10 minutes before starting your day to do the routine. Why is visualization important? Most of us have lost the ability to concentrate and consciously create positive images and feelings in our own mind. The daily exercise will eventually help us become masters of our own minds.

Creating images

The week's visualization exercise was to focus on "gifts in a garden." This involved envisioning a garden and all that nature had put there. By no means should you stick to this image—it is just a guideline. In fact, you are encouraged to create your own imagery.

The third room is the "Relax Journal." This consists of questions you have to answer at the end of the day. You are encouraged to write whatever comes to mind without editing your thoughts. As anyone who has kept a journal knows, it is very introspective and cathartic. It helps you understand your own habits of thinking and feeling. To help you deal with daily stress, you are asked questions like "What was your most stressful moment today?" and "What do you think was the cause of your stress?" The questions are changed randomly.

The fourth room is your very own "Relax Coach." It is meant for personal guidance and is interactive. You can send a question through e-mail and it will be answered within 48 hours. There are also sample questions to read through and learn from.

The fifth room offers "Relaxation Resources." This is where you can order CDs and books if you want to delve further into the center's techniques and teachings. The sixth room offers detailed information on seminars, workshops and lectures.

Meditation

The seventh and last room is the "Meditation Room." You are encouraged to print out the meditation, which is changed weekly, and to meditate in a good, quiet spot at home. The aim is to introduce meditation as a way to the deepest form of relaxation.

Many people are wary of meditation because it seems so mystic. But George says it does not have to be. It is just a matter of taking the time to exercise our "inside" the same way we do our "outside." Aside from the rooms, the website also has a library with several interesting articles.

Sometimes we need to take a deep breath especially in the turbulent times we live in. If all it takes to help us de-stress is a click of the mouse and a few minutes each day, don't you think it is worth it?

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

FORECASTS

- **US posturing on war will soften**
- **RP finances to improve but the country will experience more debts and losses**
- **More problems in peace and order**
- **More calls for peace**

Trend . . .

(From page G1)

bring serious transportation accidents and adverse publishing events. Nonetheless, the people will learn to transmute negative energies to something positive through prayer and meditation, since Neptune, the planet of divine love, is positively linked to other planets.

Pluto is in its own house of death-and-rebirth process, regeneration and the underworld. The deep-rooted traditions of culture will undergo radical change for good and also for evil, resulting in crime and the failure of law and order. This could mean that because of conflict, or an alliance of certain nations under the spur of war against terrorism, output in weapons of mass destruction and national productivity will be stimulated to a degree. The military and the police will be busy eradicating crime, but the secret enemies of the administration will be active in subverting the security and peace of the country. Health conditions need much attention.

From Dec. 15 to Jan. 14, 2002, there will be gains in trade and commerce. There will be heavy national expenditures and revenue losses, however. But some marked improvement in the financial conditions of the country will be evident as graft and corruption will be checked. Unexpected worries will arise in connection with exports and telecommunications. Strange, curious cases may reach the courts.

There will be much activity in foreign affairs, through treaties and commercial agreements. In general, due to an afflicted Mercury there will be disagreements in international affairs. However, Venus augurs well for peace and prosperity in foreign trade.

Through all this, people are encouraged to pray without ceasing. Prayer and meditation enable us to tap into sources of energy. Most of us are not aware of the oneness we share with the rest of life because we have been conditioned, educated, and brought up to see our differences rather than our unity or oneness. We suffer from terrorist attacks because of our ignorance of cosmic, universal laws, such as reverence for life and the universality of love. We should not fear. Fear is borne out of the destructive divisions of men. Instead of fear, we should love.

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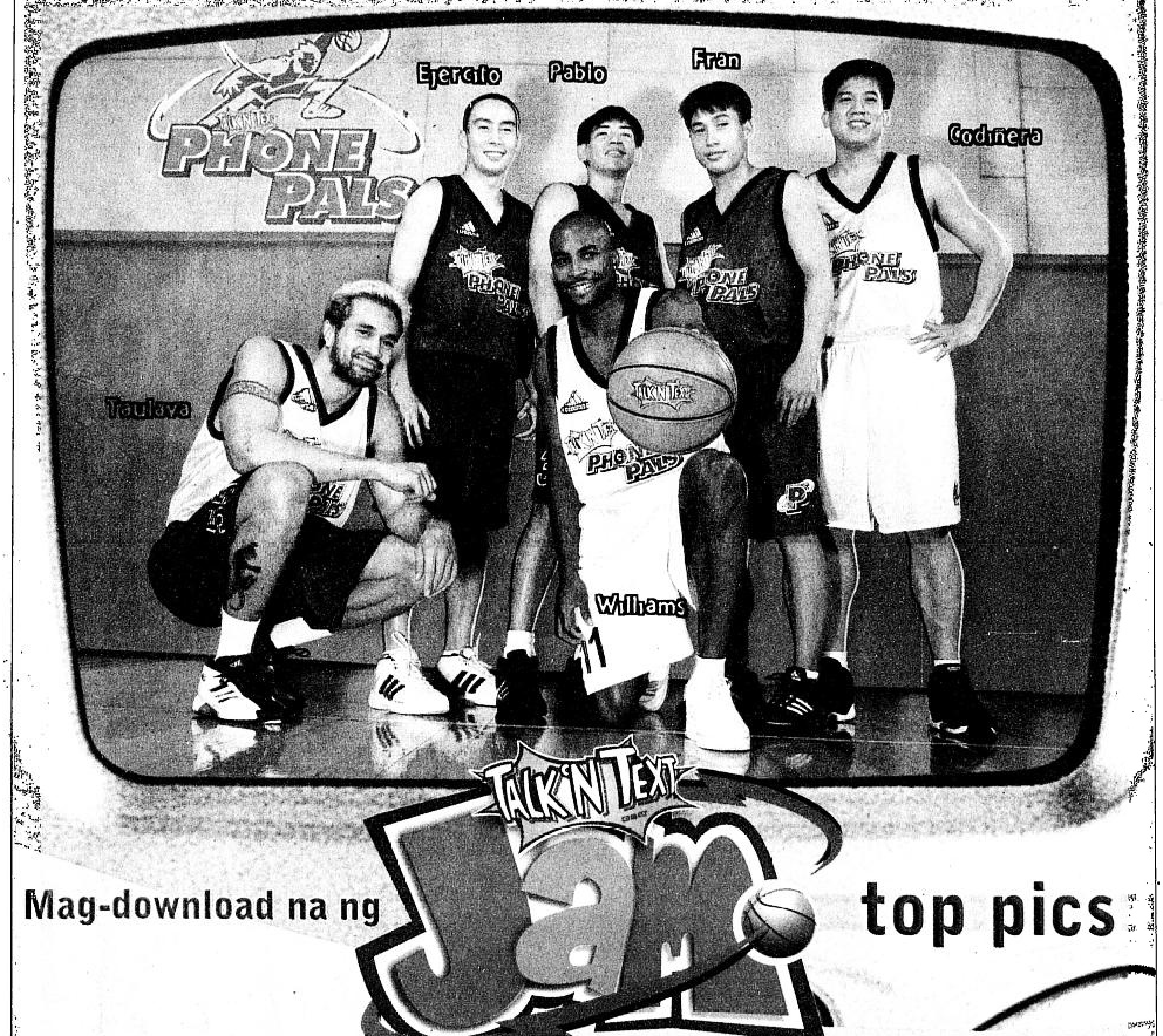

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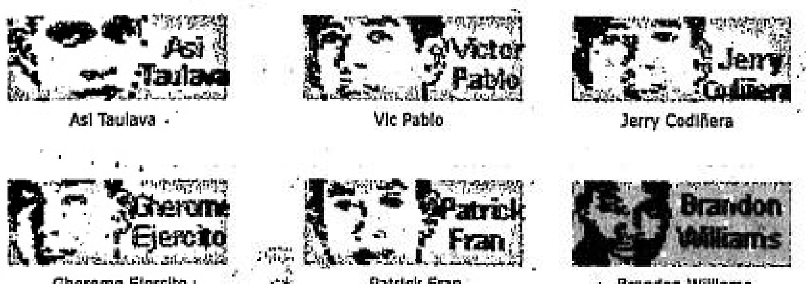

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After the impeachment, soap keeps Pinoys glued to their sets

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES

TWO days a week, I spend about 18 straight hours taping five episodes of a daily drama aided by a second unit director. Another day is spent for preproduction—that includes brainstorming, nitpicking on production requirements and plunging into this cesspool of convoluted ideas to find unfathomable twists and turns of fate to make the storyline of the soap opera absorbing and addicting to the television audience.

But I am not complaining. Considering the fact that free television boasts of nonstop-marathon-primetime-soap-opera orgies for five (yes, count 'em... five!) days a week, who am I to whimper if I surrender a mere three of my own week? Right after the primetime news, the Filipino viewer is glued to his television set, even drugged into stupor, as he is plunged into the world of local soap operas. Until 9 p.m., it is assumed that he eats his dinner while concentrating on the travails of a bevy of pathetic heroines going through the obstacle course called broadcast life.

Days are now benchmarked by the cataclysmic battles between Eula Valdez and Jean Garcia, the demented machinations of Mylene Dizon... or the permutations of evil designed by Julia Clarete, VJ Belinda and the inimitable Armida Siguion-Reyna. Oh, add the Mexican soap "Camilla" to that unique coven of evil ladies of weeknight tissue-paper fantasies.

I have asked myself a thousand times: How can they endure two straight hours of soap?! Just how much of Kristine Hermosa, Claudine Barretto and Judy Ann Santos can a human being take... every night of the week?! Are female viewers magnetized by the earthy charms of Jericho Rosales and Piolo Pascual? Or maybe the flexing biceps of Carlos Agassi? Perhaps. But I think there is a lot more to the phenomenon than oversimplifying equations or certifying who is indeed the authentic soap opera queen of the archipelago.

Same difference

We have a long tradition of soap operas, right? From the radio dramas of the not-so-distant past to this current surfeit of TV serials, the formula has remained basically one and the same. It does not require much effort to conjure memories of "Flor de Luna" or "Anna Lisa" and be reminded that the phenomenon has ceased to be surprising or that these shows' plots are almost predictable.

But thank "Mara Clara" for transforming Judy Ann Santos from jungle girl "Ula" into the most viable tearjerker icon. Her very existence was defined by the gallons of tears she had to shed in every 30-minute episode. Thank "Mula sa Puso" for reinventing Claudine Barretto into yet another emotionally battered heroine whose trials in life seem to be a ceaseless process of karma. Both stars should probably thank as well all the vixens and viragos—Gladys Reyes, Princess Punzalan, Leny Santos—whose evil stepmother/stepsister personas have made the Whore of Babylon look like a Teen Princess from Tayuman. Soap operas rely for their crispness on the powers of the villains: The extent of their malice and their capacity for evil leave no room for gray shadings. That's the way the audience likes it—then and now. Black is black and white is a bucket of tears. Characterization becomes cardboard thin—and, as attested to by what we see today, every element is a step away from being a caricature.

And yet soap operas now are also so different from the ones we've seen as late as two years ago. They are fast-paced—plot progresses at a mind-boggling pace, an effective device to keep the audience glued to the TV set that a three-minute call of nature can make you miss an entire chapter in a character's life. Each 30-minute show (with an actual episode time of 18 minutes) looks like someone's life flashing before his eyes right before death. Actions are speeded up, camera work relies on fast cutting—and, worst of all, lives turn upside down at breakneck speed.

Pacing is the thing

Gone are the days when cameras marinate the extreme close-up of the soap opera heroine, tracing her tears from the moment of inception until they surrender to gravity. Extinct are techniques that stretch dramatic scenes with cheesy, overarranged canned music meant to emphasize emotional impact as if screaming, "*O, sige... iyak na! Iyak na!*" Instead, soap opera plots now defy the speed of light. Only the other day Bea was screaming and wailing, scraping at the debris of Payatas looking for her daughter; today she is dressed to the nines, her clothes studded with sequins making her look like a deflated ball of confusion... on her way to the office!

Well, blame that on globalization. Attribute these changes to imported Mexican soap operas where everyone looks like a stereotype *mestizo de Makati* but talks like someone raised in Malolos, Bulacan or Taal, Batangas. Remember Thalia? Remember how Pinoys got all too excited watching that Mexican bombshell grapple with her soap opera life that they were able to suspend their disbelief and accept a... uh, talking dog? Well, after a talking and feeling pig on "Babe," anything in life is possible. And with the dearth of *tisoy* matinee idols, pinups of skimpily clad Fernando Jose emerging from the blue waters of the sea sold like hotcakes on the sidewalks of Recto.

Again, I ask, "How can the audience accept... nay, embrace... the ridiculous sight of badly dubbed *Hispanggol* actors talking like they were performing in a skit for National Language Week?" What is it about endless suffering portrayed on television that entertains and even gives relief at the near-end of a weary day?

From the radio dramas of the past to today's TV serials, the formula has remained the same

There must be some consolation in knowing that even in the fantastic world of TV entertainment, someone as beautiful as Kristine, Claudine and Judy Ann could get shortchanged by the world. There must be something so exceptionally banal about the everyday lives of people that they have to find comfort in religiously watching the fictional suffering of young heroines.

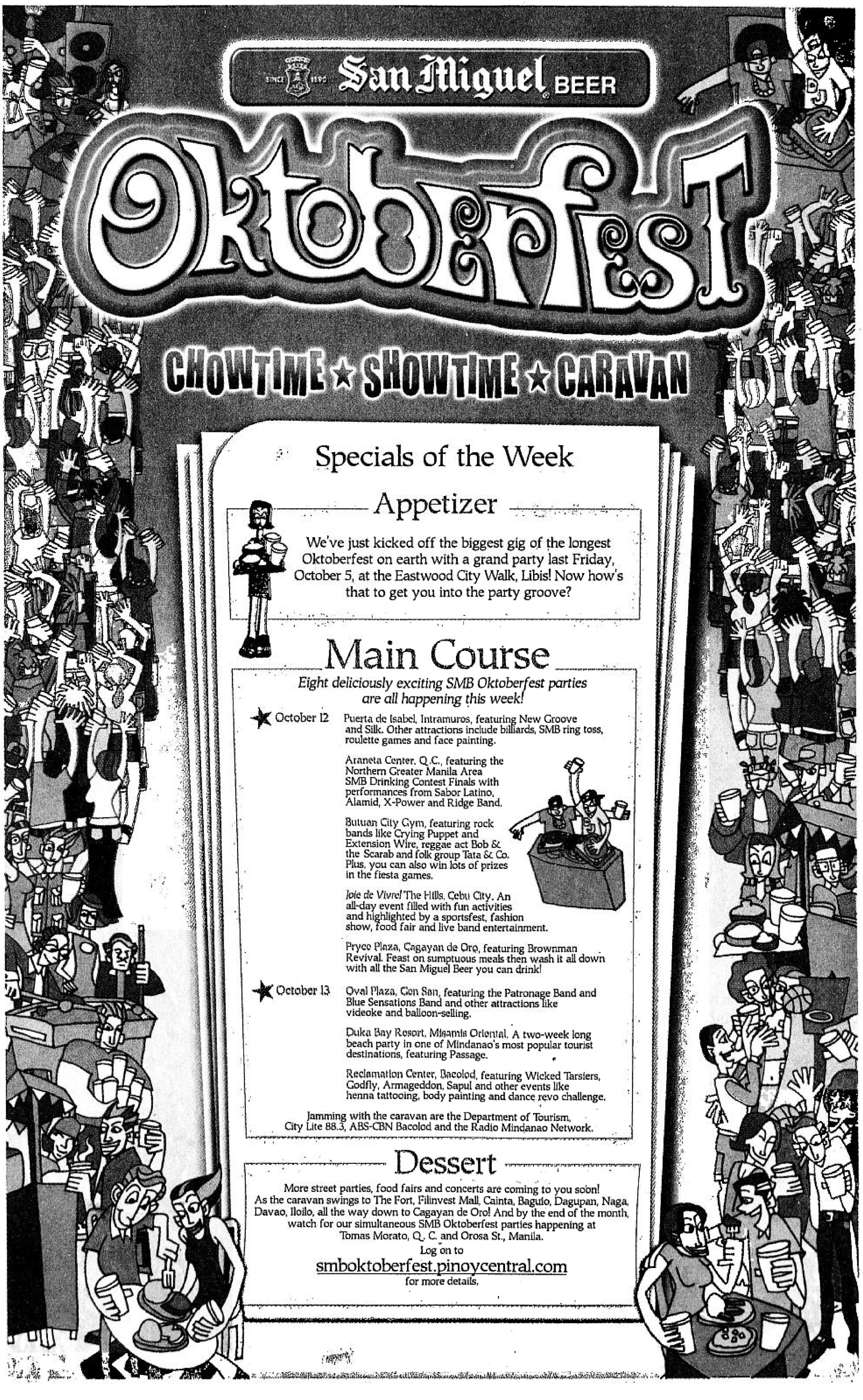
Dangerous jobs

It must be intensely cathartic to empathize with the travails of emotionally and/or physically battered people so much so that the hatred felt by the audience for the villains reaches the level of the personal. Oh, yes—there is nothing more dangerous than embarking on a career as the nemesis of Kristine, Claudine and Judy Ann. The hatred directed at the villains is so overpowering that verbal abuse and physical threats are to be expected. Audiences have welcomed their soap opera favorites into their homes to become a part of their own lives, justifying this seething hatred for those who represent the forces of evil.

Then again, despite the emotional roller coasters soap operas offer, in the end, the good will always overcome, the heroine will eventually conquer. True to the tradition of fantasies, bliss awaits the suffering—and the happy ending that is the reward of the pure of heart can be beyond anyone's wildest imagining. Perhaps that is why the audience's addiction is so pronounced. In their ultimate search for escape, Pinoys want to be assured that all's well that ends well... or so they would like to think.

It is all right to suffer in the here and now... because soap operas assure us that fate will eventually level the playing field... or so we would like to think. In the meantime, I tape a soap opera twice a week. With the creative and production teams, we define life as a series of trials... and we end each day with a now familiar theme song and the comfort of full closing credits. Now if only real life is like that.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



Specials of the Week

Appetizer

We've just kicked off the biggest gig of the longest Oktoberfest on earth with a grand party last Friday, October 5, at the Eastwood City Walk, Libis! Now how's that to get you into the party groove?

Main Course

Eight deliciously exciting SMB Oktoberfest parties are all happening this week!

★ October 12 Puerta de Isabel, Intramuros, featuring New Groove and Silk. Other attractions include billiards, SMB ring toss, roulette games and face painting.

Araneta Center, Q.C., featuring the Northern Greater Manila Area SMB Drinking Contest Finals with performances from Sabor Latino, Alamid, X-Power and Ridge Band.

Butuan City Gym, featuring rock bands like Crying Puppet and Extension Wire, reggae act Bob & the Scarab and folk group Tata & Co. Plus, you can also win lots of prizes in the fiesta games.

Joie de Vivre! The Hills, Cebu City. An all-day event filled with fun activities and highlighted by a sportsfest, fashion show, food fair and live band entertainment.

Pryce Plaza, Cagayan de Oro, featuring Brownman Revival. Feast on sumptuous meals then wash it all down with all the San Miguel Beer you can drink!

★ October 13 Oval Plaza, Gen San, featuring the Patronage Band and Blue Sensations Band and other attractions like videoke and balloon-selling.

Duka Bay Resort, Misamis Oriental. A two-week long beach party in one of Mindanao's most popular tourist destinations, featuring Passage.

Reclamation Center, Bacolod, featuring Wicked Tarsiers, Godfly, Armageddon, Sapul and other events like henna tattooing, body painting and dance revo challenge.

Jamming with the caravan are the Department of Tourism, City Lite 88.3, ABS-CBN Bacolod and the Radio Mindanao Network.

Dessert

More street parties, food fairs and concerts are coming to you soon! As the caravan swings to The Fort, Filinvest Mall, Cainta, Baguio, Dagupan, Naga, Davao, Iloilo, all the way down to Cagayan de Oro! And by the end of the month, watch for our simultaneous SMB Oktoberfest parties happening at Tomas Morato, Q. C. and Orosa St., Manila.

Log on to
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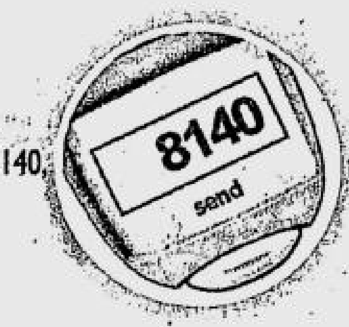

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